

Iraq preparing new press law

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is soon to pass a new law to liberalise the press and another on local assemblies as part of its drive for political reform, a government official said Saturday. Nuri Najem Al Marsumi, undersecretary at the Information Ministry, told the official daily Al Iraq that "the embargo imposed on Iraq must not be a pretext for delaying the implementation of our projects," especially the "democratisation programme." The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), Iraq's highest authority, and parliament had discussed a number of new bills which would "soon be adopted," especially those relating to the press and local assemblies, Mr. Marsumi said. The press law "will give parties and individuals the opportunity to launch an independent and partisan press alongside the existing media" which are all state-controlled, he added. President Saddam Hussein called meetings of the RCC and the ruling Baath Party at the end of October to discuss a law on local assemblies, which would be made up of one-third handpicked state officials and two-thirds elected representatives, according to the official news agency INA.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily founded by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تأسست من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية - الراي

U.S. calls for Kuwait-Jordan reconciliation

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau urged Kuwait on Saturday to mend fences with Jordan, despite Amman's alleged support for Baghdad during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis. "We think it is in Kuwait's strategic interests, in spite of what happened in the past, to hold out its hand to Jordan, to achieve reconciliation with its King, its government and its people," said Mr. Pelletreau, quoted by the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA). "Jordan is not a threat (to Kuwait) and if there is any threat, it comes from Iraq," added Mr. Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for the Near East. Mr. Pelletreau said: "The new attitude of the Jordanian government is worth encouraging to strengthen sanctions" imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Also we think it is in the strategic interest of the countries of the region, including the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates), to strengthen their relations with Jordan to face up to the threat from countries such as Iraq and Iran," he added.

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Rabin is assassinated

Israeli premier shot dead minutes after addressing rally for peace in Tel Aviv; Jewish fanatic confesses to killing

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated Saturday by a Jewish extremist who shot him at point blank range at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

"The Israeli government announces with great sadness and in shock the death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin," the prime minister's office said.

A Jewish extremist from Herzliya, Yigal Amir, 27, fired three bullets at the premier, two of which hit him in the upper body, as he walked down the steps of Tel Aviv city hall shortly after addressing the rally, police said.

The law student at the Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv was arrested with a revolver which had been fired. He had been involved in past settlers' actions in the West Bank, police said.

Mr. Rabin will be buried on Monday afternoon, Israeli's army radio said.

Despite the Jewish custom of burying the dead within one day, the funeral was delayed for an extra day to allow world leaders to attend, the radio said. The place was not announced.

Mr. Rabin, who has faced fierce right-wing criticism of his self-right deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), became the first Israeli prime minister to be assassinated since the country was created in 1948. The cabinet was to hold an emergency meeting to be chaired by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who automatically became acting head of government. Yossi Sarid was expected to be named foreign minister.

From the moment he arrived in the Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv doctors said Mr. Rabin's condition was se-



Yitzhak Rabin

rious. He died shortly afterwards.

Hundreds of angry Israelis protested outside the Ichilov Hospital on hearing the news of Mr. Rabin's death, while demonstrators from the anti-Arab banned Kach movement shouted with glee "Rabin is dead."

One of Mr. Rabin's body guards was wounded by two bullets, police said.

Yaron Marciano, a political advisor to Mr. Peres, told state radio the attack had happened at the end of a rally in support of the peace process, as the premier was walking down the steps of Tel Aviv city hall.

"I was standing close to Mr. Rabin when three shots were fired at him. He was immediately pushed into his car which left in haste."

Mr. Rabin had appealed to the rally of 100,000 banner-waving Israelis to return his government to power in the November 1996 elections so it could continue the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"Rabin was lying on a stretcher, his eyes were closed and there was a huge blood stain on his chest," one

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King mourns Rabin as a 'dear friend,' will attend funeral

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein said Saturday he mourned the loss of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and said he will attend the funeral Monday for Mr. Rabin, who was shot dead Saturday.

"Without a doubt, I'll be there," he told CNN television from Amman.

"To me it's a personal duty on behalf of the people of my country," King Hussein said.

Asked if the Middle East peace process could move forward without Mr. Rabin, the King said, "I believe that this is the legacy that he has left."

"He was a dear friend and we got on extremely well," King Hussein said, calling Mr. Rabin "a soldier of peace and a martyr for peace in the whole region."

"I mourn a friend and I'm very very sad about what has happened," he added.

"I hope that it will strengthen the resolve of all those that belong to the peace camp," King Hussein told CNN, adding: "He was a man who was first a soldier, and a soldier for peace."

The King said acting Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres "certainly will have all my support" as he pursues peace in the region.

Mr. Peres said Israel was determined to carry on the peace process with the Arabs despite the assas-

ination.

"We have all decided to carry on the path of peace begun by Yitzhak Rabin. It was the last testament that he left us," he told journalists.

Mr. Peres, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, automatically assumed the reins of government when Mr. Rabin was killed.

The King also sent a message of condolences to Israeli President Ezer Weizman. It said:

Dear Mr. President, The sense of outrage, horror and sadness that all peace-loving Jordanians share with me on learning of the brutal assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is beyond words.

"I personally have lost a true friend in this region and our world has lost a true champion of peace."

"I shall always remember him as my dedicated colleague and fellow shepherd of the Jordanian Israeli peace process."

"We who belong to the peace camp must and shall never waver in our struggle for peace. The enemies of peace are our mortal enemies. Extremism and violence and the cowardly forces of darkness are the enemies of life and they will only strengthen our determination and resolve to build a better life for future generations free from fear and intimidation."

"Yitzhak Rabin will forever be remembered and re-

(Continued on page 7)



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is on the ground as police scramble to lift him outside his car on Saturday after he is shot by a fanatic Jew in Tel Aviv (AFP photo)

Jordan, world denounce killing, say fanatics, peace opponents should not be allowed to dictate events

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

JORDAN ON Saturday condemned the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister who signed the Oct. 26 peace treaty with the Kingdom, and said extremists should not be allowed to dictate events.

"The assassination is tragic and shocking," Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said. "Tragic as the assassination is, fanatics and opponents of peace should not be allowed to carry the day and dictate events," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times, shortly after Israel

Radio and television confirmed that the prime minister was dead after being shot by a Jewish fanatic in Tel Aviv.

"Mr. Rabin was the man we negotiated peace with and he will be remembered as a leader who died while rallying for peace," said Mr. Kabariti, referring to the speech made by the late prime minister at a peace rally in Tel Aviv a few minutes before he was shot. "The peace process must go on and will go on," said Mr. Kabariti.

Former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who signed the peace treaty with Mr. Rabin in a Wadi Araba ceremony on Oct. 26, said: "Any assassination, especially of people who work for peace, is a very wicked act. Without doubt, we condemn this assassination."

In Washington, a shaken President Bill Clinton, the man who brought together Mr. Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for their historic handshake of peace, said peace must be Mr. Rabin's lasting legacy after his assassination. President Clinton said he

was "extremely saddened" by the assassination.

Mr. Clinton will attend the funeral service for Mr. Rabin and has invited Republican and Democratic congressional leaders to accompany him, the White House said.

A visibly shocked Mr. Arafat said: "I am very sad and very shocked by this terrible and awful crime against a great leader of Israel and a peacemaker."

"I hope that for all of us we will be able to overcome this tragedy which has hit the peace process," he said.

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ESCWA to step up activities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday received at the Royal Court the executive director of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Hazem Biblawi. Dr. Biblawi said at the meeting ESCWA was keen to increase its activities in economic and social fields, especially after the success of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit held in Amman last week.

King Hassan told to take rest

RABAT (AFP) — The personal physicians of King Hassan II, who returned home Saturday from the United States where he was hospitalized with pneumonia, have prescribed several weeks of rest for the Moroccan leader, according to a communiqué from the monarch's press service.

Algerian opposition leader slain

ALGIERS (AFP) — A leader of Algeria's opposition Socialist Forces Front (FFS), Embarek Mahiou, was killed here Saturday, his party announced. Mahiou, the 49-year-old national secretary of the party, was gunned down in his car outside his home in the Kuba district. He was killed in the driver's seat of his car around 10:30 a.m. (0900 GMT), and a cousin riding with him died when the car subsequently crashed. An accounting expert, Mahiou was in charge of the party finances.

Clashes erupt in Ramallah after Jewish settler kills boy

RAMALLAH. Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Palestinians clashed with Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank on Saturday in angry response to the killing of a Palestinian youth by a Jewish settler, witnesses said.

No injuries were reported in the stone-throwing in the city of Ramallah and nearby Jalazoun refugee camp.

Israeli police said they had been unable to determine who killed Ahmad Al Ramahi, aged 16 or 17, in Jalazoun on Friday. Ramahi's family took his body for burial before an autopsy could be performed.

Hospital officials quoted his relatives as saying Ramahi was shot by a Jewish settler, two days after a settler-rabbi was seriously wounded in a drive-by shooting near

Ramallah. Mourning notices in local newspapers said the youth was killed by a settler. The Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah faction said it "mourns the heroic martyr Ramahi who was martyred in Jalazoun."

According to witnesses, Palestinians and Israeli soldiers from a nearby base were involved in a confrontation when an armed Jewish settler drove up in his car and stopped.

The settler aimed his gun at Ramahi and fired a shot, striking the boy in the head and killing him, the witnesses said.

Israeli police confirmed that the young Palestinian had been shot dead, but did not implicate a Jewish settler.

"An investigation has been opened to establish the exact circumstances of this incident," a police spokesman said.

The killing would bring to 74 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers or Jewish settlers since the beginning of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in May 1994.

Several dozen Palestinian youths burned tyres and threw stones at two Israeli army jeeps at the entrance to Jalazoun. Soldiers, aiming high, fired rubber bullets, and dispersed the crowd.

In Ramallah, about 100 students marched down a main street blocked by two Israeli border police jeeps. The youths threw rocks at the vehicles.

Croatia sets deadline for accord

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Croatia on Saturday set the U.S.-led Balkan summit an end-November deadline for the peaceful return of its Eastern Slavonia region occupied by rebel Serbs.

President Franjo Tudjman warned the Croatian army could attack the territory, bordering Serbian-led Yugoslavia unless agreement was reached by Nov. 30.

There will be no extension," he told a press conference following his return from a first round of summit talks in the U.S. town of Dayton with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

An outbreak of fighting fur Eastern Slavonia, which is heavily defended by Croatia's Serb minority who seized it four years ago, could wreck the peace process.

Mr. Tudjman issued his ultimatum despite an agreement with Mr. Milosevic in Dayton this week that both would work for a peaceful settlement.

Zagreb's determination to complete the reintegration of all rebel territory within its borders on its own terms underlined the scale of the difficulties facing the summit

which is also trying to end the war in Bosnia.

"The talks in Dayton will not continue beyond the U.N. mandate and if these efforts do not result in agreement, Croatia will as a sovereign country reserve the right to (regain East Slavonia by force)," Mr. Tudjman insisted.

American and U.N. mediators now have just under a month to reconcile Croat and Serb positions which are far apart. Talks with the two sides on Saturday in Osijek were delayed by the absence of a Serb delegation.

Islamic Jihad claims blasts

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Militant Islamic Jihad leaders on Saturday claimed responsibility for a double suicide bombing in the Gaza Strip and vowed before a 3,000-strong cheering crowd that more attacks would follow.

The rally here was called after Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shaqaqi was gunned down in Malta on Oct. 26, in an attack blamed by the group on Israeli secret service Mossad agents.

Over loudspeakers Jihad leaders told the crowd gathered at a Gaza City football stadium that two members of the headline group carried out Thursday's double attack near the Kissufim crossing between Israel and Gaza which wounded 11 Israelis.

"We claim the attacks at Kissufim and Gush Katif... and we will continue the fight and carry out other attacks against the enemy," Jihad leaders said in a communiqué read to the crowd.

OSCE president supports Jordan bid to enter group

Hungarian foreign minister reviews means to enhance bilateral relations

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Hungarian Foreign Minister Laslo Kovach, president of the Organisation on Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), said Saturday after talks with His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan that he supported Jordan's bid to join the OSCE as a member of the non-participating Mediterranean group in the organisation.

Mr. Kovach, who arrived here Friday on a three-day visit, said he expected a unanimous vote in favour of Jordan when the issue would be discussed by OSCE foreign ministers in Budapest in early December.

The Hungarian minister also told Jordan Television in a statement that the OSCE, "as a regional organisation, is very much interested in the stability of neighbouring regions like the Mediterranean, and we do hope that one day, through this cooperation between Jordan and the OSCE and the Mediterranean states there will be a similar structure in the Mediterranean and the Middle East."

That was an implicit reference to the repeated calls made by Crown Prince Hassan for an organisation similar to OSCE in the Middle East grouping all countries in the region.

Mr. Kovach, who delivered to King Hussein a message from the Hungarian president and invitation to

visit Hungary, described his talks with the King, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as very substantial on bilateral relations.

"The prime minister was absolutely receptive to the proposals that we jointly tackled to (strengthen) relations, to have the necessary agreements like an agreement on the promotion and protection of investments and another on avoiding double taxation," he said.

Sharif Zeid also agreed that Jordan and Hungary should conclude a trade agreement, which "should be in conformity with Jordan's relations with the European Union and Hungary's rela-

(Continued on page 7)

Greenpeace criticises MENA projects

AMMAN (R) — Environmental watchdog Greenpeace said on Friday that multi-billion dollar projects presented at last week's Middle East and North Africa economic summit posed a grave danger to the region's environment.

The group, in a statement obtained by Reuters, said many of the projects discussed in the three-day conference, which ended on Tuesday, envisaged "expanding or building new polluting" industries.

The construction of hundreds of kilometres of highways and boosting tourism would lead to "more environmental damage in the Middle East and North Africa," the statement said.

Middle Eastern countries presented project proposals worth tens of billions of dollars at the conference in Amman which brought over 1,000 global government and business leaders to examine investment opportunities in the region.

Mario Damato of Green-

peace's Mediterranean office was quoted as saying: "The huge projects focused on would mean higher levels of air pollution in urban centres like Beirut, Amman, Tel Aviv, Damascus and Alexandria."

"Any future development in the region should take full advantage of the bitter lessons learnt in developed countries and strive towards making a quantum leap over environmental destruction

(Continued on page 7)

Iran seeks foothold in north Iraq - diplomats

By Leon Barkho
Reuter

BAGHDAD — Iran has been green light to Iraqi rebel groups it controls to establish a base in northern Iraq and work with other dissidents against the government in Baghdad, diplomats in the Iraqi capital said.

They said at least one brigade of the Iran-backed Shiite dissidents, formerly stationed along Iraq's southern borders, had moved to the area, currently outside the control of the Baghdad government.

"We are aware of at least one brigade, the Imam Ali, of Badr Forces being moved to the area for joint operations with other Iraqi opposition groups," a source, demanding anonymity, said.

The move added one more element to the mosaic of political parties and interest groups vying for influence in northern Iraq, an area now under Kurdish control and a base for an array of forces opposed to the Iraqi government in Baghdad.

Baghdad has so far remained silent on the new development confirmed by U.S. State Department officials who on Thursday said they were concerned about signs that pro-Iranian militia were moving forces into Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

The Badr Forces, whose strength has been put at about 5,000, consist mainly of refugees and Iraqi prisoners of war (PoWs). Iraq says Iran has not repatriated at least 20,000 of its troops it took prisoner during their 1980-1988 Gulf war.

One diplomat said the de-

ployment followed agreement between Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), and Mohammad Baqr Al Hakim of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) during a visit to Tehran last month.

"This could not be done without the blessing of the clerics in Tehran," the diplomat said.

Sources close to the United Nations guards in Baghdad said a group called Hizbollah (Party of God), an offshoot of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, was free to operate in northern Iraq.

"They are well-armed, well-paid and well-organised and guided by Revolutionary Guard's commanders," one source said.

Analysts explained the rise of Iranian-backed groups in Mr. Talabani's areas as part of the Iraqi Kurds' fledgling political parties, Mr. Talabani's rival, Massoud Barzani of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), has been courting Turkey by pursuing Turkish Kurd guerrillas on his territory.

"Talabani needs the Iranians to offset the growing strength of his rival (Barzani) struggling to appease Turkey by pursuing PKK guerrillas in areas under his control," said the diplomat.

Diplomats and sources said Iran's goal in northern Iraq was not clear. Unlike southern Iraq and southern Lebanon, most Iraqi Kurds are Sunni Muslims who have little or no religious affiliation with Shiite Iran.

Moving the Iranian-backed Iraqi dissidents to northern Iraq could signal frustration with the failure to establish a

foothold in southern Iraq, mainly inhabited by Iraqi Shiites.

Diplomats said Iraqi troops and paramilitary forces were entrenched in southern Iraq and had beaten off the dissidents.

"Tehran fears it will lose the leverage to parallel the presence of a heavily-armed exile Iranian group in Iraq (the Mujahideen-e-Khalq)," another diplomat said.

The diplomat said Baghdad was fully prepared to encounter moves by rebel Kurds and their supporters to either expand the area under their control or harass its troops in the region.

"I do not think Baghdad would be the first to attack. Iraqi leaders will not give Washington and allies a pretext to use their air-power against them," the diplomat added.

An allied air-force based in southern Turkey polices a "no-fly" zone in northern Iraq to guard the area against possible attacks by the Iraqi army.

The KDP and PUK have been locked in factional fighting which has divided northern Iraq into two spheres of influence and led to the absence of law and order in the region.

This has encouraged Iran to strengthen its position and last month it invited leaders of both the KDP and PUK to Tehran for consultation on the future of the region.

U.S.-brokered talks between the two factions held in Ireland in September failed to reach an agreement. One State Department official said on Friday the U.S. opposed Iran's involvement in Iraqi Kurdistan.



CAMPAGNING: Algerian presidential candidate Said Sadi, leader of the Party for Culture and Democracy, waves to tens of thousands of supporters during a rally in Tizi Ouzou, capital of the great Kabily and stronghold of the candidate (AFP photo)

26 freed in Turkey after anti-terror law amended

ANKARA (AFP) — Twenty-six people jailed for spreading separatist Kurdish propaganda have been released this week after Turkey's parliament amended a controversial anti-terrorism law, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The amendments approved on Oct. 27, reduce prison sentences for those found guilty of conducting separatist Kurdish propaganda, and also allow state security court judges to postpone sentences or convert them to fines.

One Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be named, told AFP that the state security courts, reviewing the cases of scores of those condemned according to the previous version of article 8, decided to release 26 people who were set free between Tuesday and Friday.

The courts are still reviewing the cases of several other people jailed under article 8, and the official said many more people were expected to be released from jail within the next few weeks.

The Turkish parliament accepted changes to article 8 as part of Ankara's efforts for more democracy to pave the way for Turkey's planned customs union with the European Union which must still be ratified by the European Parliament.

The European legislative body has said democratic reforms are a condition for Turkey's entry into the customs union which, if realised, would provide Turkey with special ties with the EU that no other non-member has.

The European Parliament is due to vote on the customs union in December. If the deal passes, it will be effective as of Jan. 1 next year.

Prosecutor demands death for Geagea

BEIRUT (AP) — The state prosecutor on Friday demanded the death penalty for a jailed former Christian warlord implicated in two car bombings in 1991 that killed 12 people and wounded the defence minister.

Prosecutor General Adnan Adoum demanded capital punishment for Samir Geagea, leader of the now-defunct Lebanese Forces militia, and 16 other followers charged with the bombings which occurred in March 1991, five months after the end of the civil war.

Eight people were killed and 20 wounded in the first explosion on March 20, 1991. It ripped through the Christian suburb of Antelias north of Beirut as Defence Minister Michael Murr's motorcade drove by. He was lightly injured.

Mr. Geagea, who is in a Defence Ministry jail, was convicted in June and sentenced to life in prison for the 1990 assassination of rival Christian politician Dany Chamoun, his wife and two young children.

Mr. Burns noted that the United States has raised reward money for credible information on the case to a maximum of \$4 million. He added that beyond U.N. sanctions against Libya, the United States has imposed a trade ban on Libya and has frozen all Libyan assets in the United States.

Marina De Larrakotexea, who boycotted Friday's dedication, objected to the inclusion of the name of her late sister, Maria Nieves, on the memorial. But she said her family was told they have no legal way to prevent it.

Ms. De Larrakotexea, a native of Bilbao, Spain, who lives in New York City, accused Mr. Clinton of "giving lip service" to U.S.-British investigations that blamed the bombing on Libyan agents, while ignoring alleged Iranian, Syrian and Palestinian connections.

Ms. De Larrakotexea said she backs a group of British victims' families who favour sending the Libyan suspects to trial in a neutral country under a Scottish judge.

Some relatives of victims also were urging greater pressure on Libya. One small group wanting stronger action boycotted Friday's ceremony and planned their own for Saturday.

Addressing such concerns, the Rev. Patrick Keegans of Lockerbie said Friday's dedication "can never be accepted as the drawing of a curtain over the Lockerbie

Clinton, relatives remember Pan Am blast victims

WASHINGTON (AP) — Standing beneath an umbrella in a chilly rain, President Bill Clinton dedicated a memorial to the 270 victims of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and promised to keep international pressure on Libya to hand over two suspects for trial.

Mr. Clinton spoke Friday at Arlington National Cemetery at the unveiling of a monument made from 270 pink and orange sandstones, one for each of the victims killed when the Jumbo jetliner plunged to the ground at Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988.

The rocks, cut from a quarry near Lockerbie, form a tapered, circular tower 3.3 metres high. It is a traditional Scottish monument, known as a memorial cairn.

"Let us take this cairn as the sign of our bond with the victims... to work to bring justice down on those who committed the murders, to keep our own people safe and to rid the world of terrorism, and never to forget until this job is done," Mr. Clinton said at the dedication.

A soldier held an umbrella over the bare-headed president as he addressed the gathering of 1,000 relatives of victims from the United States and 20 other countries, along with cabinet secretaries, members of Congress and the diplomatic corps.

"We must never, never relax our efforts until the criminals are brought to justice," Mr. Clinton said, noting that since 1988 deadly terrorism has come to the United States in the form of major strikes at New York's World Trade Centre in 1993 and this year at the Federal



American Victoria Cummock holds her daughter and weeps at a dedication ceremony at Arlington cemetery on Friday for victims of the 1988 December blast of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie. John Cummock was one of the 270 people killed in the blast (AFP photo)

Building in Oklahoma City. A bagpiper played the hymn "Amazing Grace" as children of the victims joined Mr. Clinton in placing a bouquet of long-stemmed red roses at the foot of the memorial.

Nearly seven years ago, the bombing claimed the lives of all 259 people on board the flight and 11 people on the ground. The United States has blamed the bombing on Libyan agents.

The U.S. and British governments have indicted two Libyans they accused of being espionage agents posing as airline employees and

loading the suitcase aboard an Air Malta flight at Malta tagged for New York via Pan Am 103. The Pan Am flight originated in Frankfurt, Germany, and collected passengers and baggage in London.

Libya has refused to surrender the two for trial in Britain or the United States despite limited sanctions voted in 1992 by the U.N. Security Council.

George Williams, whose 24-year-old son was killed in the crash and who heads an organisation representing the relatives of the victims, called on Mr. Clinton and the Con-

gress to impose a naval blockade on Libyan oil until the suspects are surrendered. The United States has pressed the United Nations to tighten sanctions against Libya.

Some relatives of victims also were urging greater pressure on Libya. One small group wanting stronger action boycotted Friday's ceremony and planned their own for Saturday.

Addressing such concerns, the Rev. Patrick Keegans of Lockerbie said Friday's dedication "can never be accepted as the drawing of a curtain over the Lockerbie

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt, U.S. to stage largest joint war games

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and the United States will be joined by three other countries for the first time in their largest ever joint military exercises next week, officials said Saturday. Britain, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will join in the Bright Star war games, to involve more than 55,000 troops, which Egypt and the U.S. have been holding alone every two years since 1980, military officials said. "The only thing comparable to this exercise in scope and coordination is Desert Storm," the coalition attack which drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in 1991. U.S. military spokesman Colonel Thomas Nickerson told the press. Egypt will contribute for the first time to the joint manoeuvres a force of U.S.-made Apache attack helicopters. F-16 fighters and Knox class frigates, while the UAE will contribute with two of its own Apaches. Around 33,500 Egyptian troops will participate alongside almost 22,000 Americans, 530 British, 500 French and 180 UAE soldiers, the head of the manoeuvre's press centre, General Ahmad Gamal Eddin, said.

Iranians hold nationwide anti-U.S. rallies

NICOSIA (R) — Thousands of Iranians have gathered at the former U.S. embassy in Tehran to mark the 16th anniversary of its seizure by Islamic militants, Tehran Radio said on Saturday. Large crowds chanting "Death to America" marched across Iran to mark the day, in what has become a yearly state-sponsored event in the Islamic republic, the radio said. In schools across the country, students held special "Death to America" assemblies to chant slogans against the United States after the ringing of the morning bell, it added. The radio broadcast special programmes in which officials and citizens reiterated that Iran would continue its "independent political path" despite U.S. pressures. The United States sees Iran as a "terrorist state" bent on developing nuclear arms and imposed a trade and investment ban against Tehran in June.

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16:30 I Love Lucy

16:30 Tarzan

17:30 Children's Programme - Cocotte

17:30 Serie - Fruity Et Legumes

18:00 Document

19:00 News in French

19:15 Magazine - Sports Et Musique

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Nurses

20:00 Cinema, Cinema

20:25 The Bold and the Beautiful

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21:30 Heartbeat

22:00 News in English

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23:10 Cassidy

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The Lutheran Day School Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise with winds southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

PRAYER TIMES

04:32 Fajr

05:57 (Sunrise) Duha

11:19 Asr

14:21 Dhuhar

16:48 'Asr

18:08 Maghreb

18:08 Isha

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./Max. temp. 14/26

Aqaba 20/31

Deserts 12/27

Jordan Valley 19/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 24, Aqaba 30, Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Makhles Mazabrahi 620425

Dr. Jam' Abu Dhiab 758848

Dr. Walid Al Murti 675483

Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301

Firas pharmacy 661912

Fardous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 670555

Nairoboh pharmacy 625672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoboh pharmacy 625672

Najib pharmacy 847632

JERUSALEM:

Dr. Ali Al Qamri 272032

Alqade pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Fahed Abdul Salam 984549

Khalifeh pharmacy 98417

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immunodiac Rescue 630341

Police Detachment Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192 111-6377

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775211

Highway Police 824042

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63032

Hotel Complaints 605900

Price Complaints 897467

Water and Sewerage Complaints 787111

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 772311

Radio Jordan 771111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Tel. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642262

Mathas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 648545

Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/0

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Jalala, Al-Muasher 771012/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 773117/26

Army, Marja 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 6224050

Amal Hospital 607152

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)905540

The Shin Hospital (09)966732

Al-Hana Modern Hospital (09)909090

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

IBD:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)272555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Al-Nahla Hospital (02)247108

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Bangkok (RJ)

06:00 Aqaba (RJ)

06:15 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)

06:30 Beirut (RJ)

06:45 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)

07:00 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

07:15 Munich (RJ)

07:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

07:45 Aqaba (RJ)

08:00 Cairo (RJ)

08:15 New Delhi (RJ)

08:30 Jeddah (RJ)

08:45 Bangkok (RJ)

09:00 Aqaba (RJ)

09:15 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)

09:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

10:15 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

11:00 Paris (RJ)

11:45 London (RJ)

12:30 Geneva (RJ)

13:00 Athens (RJ)

13:15 Munich (RJ)

13:30 Rome (RJ)

14:00 Vienna (RJ)

14:20 Frankfurt, Rome (RJ)

14:30 Cairo (RJ)

14:45 Aqaba (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

15:30 Sanaa (IY)

12:40 Bahrain (GF)

14:00 Doha (QT)

14:10 Moscow (SU)

16:30 Beirut (ME)

20:20 Cairo (MS)

21:10 Istanbul (TK)

23:50 London, Beirut (KL)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:30 Aqaba (RJ)

06:15 Beirut (RJ)

06:30 Aqaba, Frankfurt (RJ)

06:30 Vienna, Rome (RJ)

06:45 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)

07:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

07:30 Munich (RJ)

07:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

08:00 Athens (RJ)

08:15 Cairo (RJ)

08:30 New Delhi (RJ)

08:30 Jeddah (RJ)

08:45 Abu Dhabi, Singapore (add) (RJ)

09:00 Aqaba (RJ)

09:15 Sanaa (IY)

09:30 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)

09:30 Doha (GF)

09:45 Paris (RJ)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)

10:30 Jakarta (RJ)

09:30 Bangkok (RJ)

Other flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Beirut (ME)

11:15 Sanaa (IY)

13:30 Doha (GF)

15:00 Doha (QT)

14:05 Moscow (SU)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500

Banana (Mukammar) 680

Cabbage 180

Carrot 400/300

Cauliflower 190/120

Onions (large) 200/150

Onions (small) 320/220

Eggplant 150/100

Garlic 750/600

Grapes 650/500

Green Fruit 220/150

Lemon 240/150

Apple (large) 140/90

Marrow (small) 200/140

Alloes (green) 400/320

Onion (green) 400/120

Onion (dry) 250/150

Orange 500/400

Pepper (hot) 200/150

Pepper (sweet) 200/120

Potato 340/250

Radish 200/120

Spinach 180/100

String Beans 760/600

Tomato 280/180

Tomato 140/80

Indian cabinet recommends December elections in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, India (Agencies) — In a move aimed at ending the insurgency in Kashmir, India's Saturday cabinet recommended legislative elections in the northern state to install a popular government, news agencies said.

For more than a week, newspapers have speculated that the government will announce elections in the strife-torn state, which has been under direct federal rule for six years.

Although Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao is abroad on a tour, his home minister convened a cabinet meeting Saturday.

The cabinet decided to hold elections in mid-December and recommended that the election commission announce the exact dates and organise balloting. Press Trust of India news agency said.

Earlier, news agencies had reported that the cabinet had failed to reach a decision on the elections.

The government hopes that the return of democracy in Jammu-Kashmir, will weaken popular support that the separatists enjoy.

Militants in the state have threatened to block elections. They say the government's claim that it is secular is not true and that it denies the religious rights of Kashmiris, most of whom are Muslims. About 82 per cent of India's 910 million population are Hindus.

Parliament must approve any extension of federal rule in Kashmir when the current term expires on Jan.

17. Mr. Rao is expected to return from his tour of Argentina, Burkina Faso and Ghana on Nov. 12, although Saturday's newspapers said he might cut short his trip by two days to resume negotiations with political parties who don't favour elections.

Kashmir's main local political party, the National Conference, has said it would participate in elections only if Mr. Rao granted more autonomy to the state and allowed the state's chief minister to call himself the prime minister of Kashmir. Mr. Rao is likely to accept the demand.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in the last six years in Kashmir in fighting between militants and Indian soldiers.

Meanwhile three of four Western tourists held hostage in Kashmir began their fifth month of captivity on Saturday and authorities said they were hopeful separatist militants might release them all soon.

American Donald Hutchings and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells were kidnapped by Al-Faran guerrillas in scenic south Kashmir July 4 while on a trekking expedition in the Himalayan Mountains in northern India.

A fourth captive, John Childs of the United States, escaped to safety four days later. The Al-Faran seized two more tourists, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe, on

the same day Childs fled.

Mr. Ostroe was found decapitated in a remote Kashmiri forest on Aug. 13.

Authorities said they believed the four tourists were unharmed and their captors might be considering releasing them.

Al-Faran, a shadowy outfit unknown before the kidnappings, has demanded the release of 15 jailed separatists including three Pakistanis from the Harkat-ul-Ansar militant group.

India has refused to bow to the militants' demands and ruled out a rescue raid for fear of endangering the hostages' lives.

Al-Faran broke off contact with Indian authorities on Sept. 19 after weeks of fruitless negotiations and a series of death threats against the hostages.

A senior official said hopes for the captives' freedom were high. "We are keeping our fingers crossed," he said.

Mr. Hasert, Mr. Hutchings, Mr. Mangan and Mr. Wells have been periodically sighted by Kashmiris as the abductors lead them through isolated villages in the region, torn by a five-year-old separatist rebellion in which more than 20,000 people have died.

The Western tourists are known to have suffered stomach and eye ailments, and Mr. Hutchings is believed to have frost bitten feet. Al-Faran has sought medical aid for them on at least two occasions, residents said.

After shifting from hide-

out to hideout at high altitude, the militants have descended towards the valley as night-time temperatures in the rugged region have begun to plunge, officials said.

They were recently seen near Pahalgam, a well-known summer resort near the spot where the tourists were kidnapped, located some 100 kilometres south-east of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

A bus driver named Shahji told Reuters some 30 militants stopped his bus at gunpoint in broad daylight on Oct. 19, near Hapattar village, about 24 kilometres from Pahalgam.

He said there were four Westerners, including one who was limping, among the militants, who were carrying automatic weapons.

The militants hijacked the bus to Langanbal, about 10 kilometres from Pahalgam. A group of the militants then went into Pahalgam where they forced a trekking guide, Manzoor Lone, and a companion, Muzaffer Bhat, to lead them after nightfall to Dachinpur town.

Mr. Lone said he saw two Westerners among the militants, including one who limped.

"I was scared these people would meet security forces on the way and I would be caught in the crossfire," said Mr. Lone, who was later picked up by paramilitary troops and interrogated in detention for five days.



Columbia crew hope for bad landing weather

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — To the astronauts' delight, bad weather at NASA's space shuttle landing site may keep Columbia in orbit an extra, record-breaking 17th day. Looking for good luck, astronaut Al Sacco said Friday that "I'm keeping my fingers crossed, my legs crossed, my eyes crossed and everything else I can cross, that that will happen." Friday was 14 days into the laboratory-research mission. "We're all hoping for that because we all feel great. None of us is tired. We worked hard. We accomplished a lot of things, and we'd like to just keep it going." Columbia and its seven astronauts are due to land at Kennedy Space Centre Sunday morning. Low clouds and high wind are forecast. Endeavour holds the record for the longest shuttle mission, a 16 1/2-day astronomy flight in March. Columbia's flight already has tied the record for the most launch postponements — six. The photograph shows the shuttle crew during an on-orbit press conference. (Front left to right) Kathryn Thornton, Commander Ken Bowersox, Catherine Coleman, (top left to right) Michael Lopez-Alegria, Sacco, Fred Leslie and pilot Kent Rominger (AFP photo)

Okinawa governor refuses to agree U.S. bases lease

TOKYO (R) — Okinawa's governor refused Saturday to sign land leases needed to extend the life of some U.S. military bases on the Japanese island and presented new demands for cutbacks in American military operations there.

After a five-hour meeting with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the governor remained as steadfast as ever that there must be a decrease in U.S. forces on the southern island.

"I told the prime minister I am not able to sign leases," Governor Masahide Ota told reporters. "Signing would mean I support the U.S. strategy to cement and strengthen the U.S. military bases."

Mr. Ota's refusal was a blow to Mr. Murayama's hopes of solving the issue before a summit on Tokyo on Nov. 20 with President Bill Clinton.

The governor repeated his refusal to sign the documents. Mr. Murayama told reporters, "I fully understand the governor's position and how people of Okinawa think."

The crisis in security ties was set off last September by the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawan girl allegedly by three U.S. servicemen who go on trial in a Japanese court next Tuesday.

The incident unleashed a wave of anti-base feeling in

Okinawa where, Nearly half of the 47,000 troops stationed in Japan live on bases in Okinawa that take up nearly 20 per cent of the island.

In his meeting with Mr. Murayama, Mr. Ota presented a list of 10 demands which he said needed to be fulfilled before U.S. forces were again welcome in Okinawa.

They included a ban on U.S. military marches outside their bases, enforcement of Japanese noise and pollution laws, a ban on U.S. military planes and a demand that U.S. troops suspected of any crime must be turned over immediately to Japanese authorities.

Okinawan protests about the rape were heightened by military authorities' failure to turn over the suspects until they were formally indicted several weeks after the incident.

Last week U.S. authorities agreed to turn over suspects immediately in serious crimes like rape and murder.

Okinawan authorities say that since the island was returned to Japan in 1972, after a period of control by the United States from the end of World War II, a total of 500 serious crimes have been committed by U.S. servicemen.

Okinawa, 1,600 kilometres south of Tokyo, is home

to 75 per cent of all U.S. military bases in Japan.

Asked why the issue had become such a crisis Mr. Ota replied: "Because you (U.S. servicemen) are unwanted guests."

As many as 85,000 Okinawans held a rally last month to support Mr. Ota and protest the U.S. presence, which many on the island blame for crime and retarded industrial development.

During U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry's visit to Tokyo last Wednesday, the two countries agreed not to cut the number of U.S. troops stationed in Japan but to consider redeploying some of them away from Okinawa.

Faced by Mr. Ota's refusal to sign leases, Mr. Murayama may have to resort to legal action to settle the bitter standoff.

Japanese law allows the prime minister to first order the governor to sign the land-lease documents.

If Mr. Ota ignores that order, the prime minister can take the case to a court that could authorise Mr. Murayama himself to sign the documents.

"I will make a judgement on the issue myself," Mr. Murayama said, suggesting that he would move ahead to take legal action.

Seoul protesters vent rage at Kim

SEOUL (R) — Thousands of South Korean demonstrators demanding a corruption probe into President Kim Young-Sam over a slush fund scandal clashed with riot police in Seoul Saturday.

More than 10,000 students and other protesters, some wielding iron bars and burlap bricks and stones, fought running battles with helmeted police in a central Seoul park.

"Death to everyone involved in corruption," demonstrators chanted, their eyes streaming from volleys of tear gas shells fired by police. "Death to the Kim Young-Sam government."

Witnesses said dozens of protesters were arrested around the park. As clouds of tear gas swirled around the area the demonstrators retreated to a nearby shopping district, pouring through its narrow streets.

Violent protests erupted elsewhere in Seoul and in other cities around the country as demonstrators demanded the arrest of ex-President Roh Tae-Woo, who tearfully admitted last week to amassing a \$654 million slush fund, and a probe of the current president.

Opposition politicians have repeatedly accused Mr. Kim of dipping into Mr. Roh's hidden fortune to help fund his successful race for the presidency in 1992.

Now students, workers, housewives and other citizens are pouring into the streets for a second day of protests to demand Mr. Kim be investigated by prosecutors delving into the source of Mr. Roh's illegal cash.

The demonstrations were reminiscent of the popular outpouring of rage against military-backed rule before Mr. Roh took power.

Mr. Kim has denied taking "a single penny", and on Saturday he slipped out of Seoul to a resort to escape the snowballing scandal.

The demonstrators are also demanding that Mr. Roh and his predecessor, Chun Doo-Hwan, be put on trial for their role in crushing a pro-democracy movement in the southern city of Kwangju in 1980.

They are calling for a clean break from harsh military repression and financial sleaze that marked three decades of strongman rule.

Mr. Kim was the first civilian elected South Korean president in modern times.

Ordinary Koreans are venting their rage as Mr. Roh and the immensely wealthy tycoons who control the economy own up to having bankrolled politicians under the old regime.

Now prosecutors are trying to uncover whether, in return, they were awarded lucrative contracts.

Earlier Saturday, the chairman of South Korea's Hanbo Group arrived at the offices of Seoul prosecutors, who say they have evidence he helped bid 60 billion won (\$78 million) of Mr. Roh's slush money.

But Chung Tae-Son refused to answer any questions. His company went from an obscure construction firm to a top-20 conglomerate during Mr. Roh's 1988-93 term.

Yonhap News Agency quoted a former Roh aide as saying Hanbo and the Daewoo Group, one of South Korea's leading conglomerates, helped Mr. Roh hide 80 billion won (\$104 million).

Mr. Roh has confessed to keeping \$242 million when he left office in February 1993.

Masked Jackson fights off 'flu

COLOGNE, Germany (AFP) — Michael Jackson, almost as famous for his fear of microbes as for his singing and dancing, stepped off his private plane here Friday with a mask over his mouth and helmet on his head, seemingly to guard against 'flu. The 37-year-old Jackson, in Cologne for a weekend TV appearance, threw some white roses at around 400 fans who waited for a glimpse of their idol as he arrived from London. Jackson was swept by limousine to Cologne's Hyatt Hotel where he has taken over a whole floor. His status as one of the world's most recognisable stars failed to guarantee him a quick passage through the city's Friday evening traffic jams however. Jackson was expected to give his new Earth Song his first public airing. Saturday's show on ZDF TV, the programme's director said.

Sharon Stone switches roles

London (AP) — Sharon Stone's switch from her usual man-eating roles to a part as a self-destructive wife in Martin Scorsese's Casino was prompted by a certain loss of assets. "My rear end is starting to slide down the back of my legs," she told Britain's Ikon magazine in its December issue. The 37-year-old star of the sizzling sex thrillers Basic Instinct and Silver auditioned instead for the violent gangster movie, which stars Robert De Niro as a Las Vegas operative married to Stone. It comes out on Nov. 22. Her role was exhausting, but she's looking forward to working with other highly esteemed directors in serious roles. "I'd rather have more sex at home and keep my clothes on at work," she said. "I'm maturing."

Man held for bartering wife to get promotion

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Police have arrested a railroad worker who allegedly forced his wife to sleep with a former union leader to get a promotion at work, news reports said Saturday. The staffer reportedly forced his wife to drink three glasses of whiskey, then disrobed her before inviting his guest into the bedroom last week, newspapers quoted police as saying. The 65-year-old guest then allegedly raped the 24-year-old woman, the reports said. The woman complained to police and both men were arrested Thursday. Neighbours of the 39-year-old railroad worker told newspapers that he had frequently tried to force his wife into prostitution, which she refused.

Explorers discover previously unknown pony

PARIS (R) — Explorers have discovered a previously unknown breed of small and primitive forest pony in a remote part of Tibet, the expedition's leader said Friday. Frenchman Michel Peissel, who led the seven-week expedition to the Riwoche area in north-eastern Tibet, told Reuters the pony "resembles the horses depicted in Neolithic caves." "It has a rectangular face, a bristly mane and stands about 120 cm (four feet) high at the shoulder," he said, adding that local inhabitants use the animal as a work horse. "This really is a breakthrough," Mr. Peissel said. "We were not expecting to stumble on this so we were unable to bring one out. But when we have the necessary permissions we plan to return." Mr. Peissel, who has been exploring the Himalayas for 36 years and has travelled 15 books about his travels, led a Franco-British expedition to Tibet in 1994 that discovered the source of the Mekong River.



A fisherman inspects his boat cut in half by the metal frames of an advertising billboard blown down by super typhoon Angela in Bacoor town south of Manila (AFP photo)

Philippine typhoon toll could hit 500

LUCENA, Philippines (R) — Fears that as many as 170 people may have died in a single typhoon-hit Philippine town grew Saturday, and officials said the death toll could easily reach 500 with figures trickling in from remote areas.

More than 120 people were confirmed dead in the aftermath of super-typhoon Angela's rampage across the Philippines Thursday night and Friday.

Officials said they were trying to confirm reports more than 170 people died in the town of Calanog, some 165 kilometres southeast of Manila.

"More than 100 are dead (in Calanog)," Jose Asensi, regional director of the government's Philippine Information Agency, told reporters, adding that the initial reports were being transmitted to local government officers via a ham radio network.

The coastal town, in an area prone to landslides, is virtually completely cut off by floods, officials said.

Forty-six other people were reported to have died in towns across sprawling Quezon province, and more than 40 others perished in the neighbouring Bicol region at the southern end of Luzon, the most populous Philippine island.

"They are still digging bodies out of the rubble. The number of dead can only rise," a relief official said.

In the north, torrential downpours triggered by

Angela sent a wall of mud seven feet high (2.1 metres) crashing down from Pinatubo volcano into the city of San Fernando.

The commercial centre of the city of 300,000 people was inundated as more than 50,000 people fled for their lives.

"It looks like a sea. One family rode a two-wheel horse-drawn carriage to safety," an eyewitness told Reuters by mobile phone.

Damage to infrastructure and critical crops like rice and coconuts climbed to over two billion pesos. (\$76.9 million) and is expected to rise further, relief officials said.

The island of Catanduanes, the first to be hit by Angela Thursday evening, was laid waste by the typhoon.

"The entire province was heavily devastated," air force chief General Nicasio Rodriguez told reporters after escorting a transport plane full of relief goods to the island 350 kilometres east of Manila.

In provinces south of Manila that were ravaged by the worst cyclone to hit the Philippines in a decade, the typhoon stripped trees of their leaves and houses of their roofs. Many towns looked like bombed-out wrecks.

"We immediately need food," Jesse Robredo, mayor of Naga City in the Bicol region, told a Manila radio station.

Weather forecasters said Angela was now more than

270 kilometres west of the Philippines and headed for Vietnam.

Roads and bridges provinces south of Manila were destroyed, making it virtually impossible for rescue teams to fight their way to badly hit towns and cities.

Angela, up to 800 kilometres wide and with winds hitting up to 250 kph (155 mph), battered the southern part of Luzon Friday. The typhoon wreaked havoc in the most heavily populated island in this archipelago of 68 million people.

Local officials Saturday launched a massive cleanup of Manila as repair teams tried to replace power poles snapped like twigs by the typhoon's ferocious winds.

Large parts of the capital remained without electricity, but life was returning to normal in the capital with Filipinos flocking to shopping malls. Domestic and international flights resumed at Manila's airports.

The Philippines gets hit by an average of 20 cyclones a year but Angela was the most powerful since typhoon Nina killed more than 1,000 in 1987.

Angela struck five days after tropical storm Zack rampaged through the main sugar-producing islands of Negros and Panay, killing 163 and jeopardising the country's sugar crop.

Colombia pays homage to fallen leader

BOGOTA (R) — A veteran political leader whose killing fuelled dark conspiracy theories and prompted the government to declare a form of emergency rule was buried with full state honours in the Colombian capital Friday.

Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, a three-time former presidential candidate and long-time Conservative Party leader, was gunned down with an aide by two unidentified assassins in Bogota Thursday in a crime that shocked the nation.

His body, which lay in state in the national capital early Friday after the government declared three days of national mourning, was buried at dusk in Bogota's rain-drenched Central Cemetery after a high mass at the colonial cathedral.

President Ernesto Samper, who Mr. Gomez had fiercely criticised recently, attended the mass along with most of his cabinet and senior government officials. The fallen politician's coffin, draped with the yellow, blue and red Colombian flag, was carried by Presidential Guards in traditional Prussian-style uniforms.

The killing of the 76-year-old Gomez was deplored by Mr. Samper in a national address late Thursday in which he announced the state of emergency and vowed to punish those responsible.

Under the 90-day emergency, Mr. Samper said the police and military had been authorised to conduct summary searches and arrests without legislative approval and to restrict vehicle access anywhere in the country.

He also announced curbs on the news media, saying it would no longer be allowed to publish interviews or comments from individuals or groups claiming responsibility for crimes like the assassination of Mr. Gomez.

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for transport.
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Thick smoke rises from a state munitions plant in Rio Tercero, Argentina, 700 kilometres northwest of Buenos Aires (AFP photo)

9 dead, 300 injured in Argentine blast

RIO TERCERO, Argentina (R) — At least nine people were killed and 330 injured in a blast Friday at an Argentine arms factory that rained shells and shrapnel on the nearby town of Rio Tercero.

President Carlos Menem, who rushed to the site with several cabinet members, adamantly dismissed speculation about a possible attack on the army factory in the central province of Cordoba.

"The Argentine government is telling you that it was an accident, not an

attack," he told reporters.

He also ruled out earlier concerns that the factory's underground heavy explosives depot might blow up.

"The depot that was under danger of exploding has now been completely isolated," Mr. Menem said.

Mr. Menem said the death toll could be higher than the nine bodies found by rescue teams. "We are not ruling out more victims," he told reporters.

Cordoba's Health Ministry said it had assisted 330 injured, 11 of them in serious condition.

The fate of 200 employees working at the factory at the time of the first, early morning blast was unclear by sunset.

As night fell, explosives experts called off their search for more unexploded bombs, the local dyn news agency reported. Rescue teams were uncertain when it would be safe to enter the factory, where explosions were heard throughout the day.

The blast ripped through the plant at 9 a.m. local time (1200 GMT) and was heard 50 kilometres away.

Rio Tercero, 100 kilometres south of the central city of Cordoba, looked like a ghost town after many of its 30,000 terrified residents fled. Its empty streets were littered with fragments of metal and concrete.

Many houses were damaged and smoke billowed from different points high above the sleepy provincial town.

"It was like a battlefield. All of us who were here were hiding to avoid being hurt by the shockwave," car repairman Pedro Mana told Reuters.

He added that his house, 10 blocks from the factory, was now in ruins.

One artillery shell smoked and flamed on a lawn before exploding outside a school.

A man was killed by flying wreckage at a bus station 15 blocks away and hospital staff said they were treating residents who had lost arms and legs.

A local hospital director said all of Rio Tercero had been hit by the shock wave. "It is like a town that has been flattened," he said.

One woman was being interviewed by radio over the telephone when another explosion hit the town. "I am hearing explosions again, it's the fourth big one. I'm getting into my car and I'm out of here," she said.



Residents of the Cerino neighbourhood in Rio Tercero, Argentina, carry an injured person after several explosions at a state munitions plant (AFP photo)

Quebec separatist minister is demoted

MONTREAL (R) — At the end of a week in which he narrowly lost the Quebec referendum on sovereignty and announced his own eventual resignation, Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau demoted his finance minister.

In a cabinet shuffle Friday, Mr. Parizeau moved Jean Campeau from the finance portfolio to transport, a significantly less prestigious post.

Quebec separatists were defeated 50.6 per cent to 49.4 per cent in last Monday's referendum on Quebec sovereignty. On Tuesday, Mr. Parizeau announced he would resign as premier and Parti Quebecois leader just before Christmas.

Mr. Campeau's demotion came as Quebec's Parti Quebecois government must take some of its toughest steps yet to reduce its budget deficit and rein in its growing public debt.

In his 13 months as finance minister, Mr. Campeau brought down the separatist government's first budget, which outlined

a plan to eliminate its operating budget deficit by 1997/98.

But analysts say the next budget, which is expected to be brought down in March by Mr. Campeau's successor, Pauline Marois, will have to go much further.

"This is going to be a pivotal document for Quebec's credit rating," said Brian Miron, senior analyst at the Dominion Bond Rating Service.

In his budget speech last May, Mr. Campeau forecast a 1995/96 budget deficit of \$2.97 billion. By then, Quebec's total debt, including the liabilities of its public retirement plans, will total \$55 billion or 45 per cent of the province's gross domestic product.

Although figures by Quebec's Finance Department for the first quarter of the fiscal year showed that it was on track to meet Mr. Campeau's deficit target, analysts said they are waiting to see if second-quarter numbers expected in the next several weeks back that up.

In her first budget as finance minister, Ms. Marois will have to show how the Quebec government plans to cut expenditures and raise revenues in an effort to balance the overall budget, including capital expenditures, sooner rather than later.

"Balancing the current account deficit just does not go far enough. We prefer to see signs of a balanced budget," Mr. Miron said.

At a press conference in Quebec City Friday, neither Mr. Parizeau nor Mr. Campeau would comment on whether Mr. Campeau was demoted or asked to leave the finance post. Mr. Campeau said he was leaving the Finance Department in good shape.

Mr. Campeau noted that Quebec already had much of its 1995/96 fiscal year borrowing in place ahead of the sovereignty referendum.

"All the borrowing had to be done before the referendum so there would be no surprises," Mr. Campeau said.

Americans, others may find problems in getting U.N. jobs

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — People who speak only one language may find it more difficult to land desirable jobs at the United Nations now that the General Assembly is asking U.N. bosses to favour staffers who speak more languages.

But the change could favour English speakers from countries which use one of the other official U.N. languages, such as French or Spanish.

By a vote of 100-35, the U.N. General Assembly late Thursday approved a resolution stating that recruits for U.N. jobs must speak at least one of the U.N. "working languages," which include English, French and Spanish.

The resolution, sponsored by 69 of the 185 U.N. members, also requires Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to ensure that a staffer's competence in another of the six "official languages" — English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese — be considered "particularly when promotions... are under consideration."

Countries voting against the resolution included the United States, Israel, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and Japan. Supporters included France, Canada, Germany and the Latin American members.

Sri Lankan Tamil rebels set ablaze petroleum tanker, train

COLOMBO (AP) — In an apparent attempt to divert military attention from the war, Tamil rebels exploded bombs and set fire to a petroleum tanker and a train in eastern Sri Lanka Saturday, military officials said.

The fire from the tanker, which was parked near the railroad station, spread to a stationary passenger train at the Batticaloa Terminal, destroying three cars, officials said.

"There was a threat that the blaze would spread to the nearby petroleum depot, but the fire burnt itself out," said Maj. Gen. Devindra Kalupahana said in a telephone interview.

No one was hurt in the blaze. Soldiers later found an unexploded device, Gen. Kalupahana said in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile in northern Sri Lanka, troops continued to consolidate their positions Saturday just 4 1/2 kilometres from the rebel stronghold of Jaffna City, officials said.

The military said it did not immediately have reports of any casualties.

The Tigers said they were also moving their provisional government from Jaffna City to Tenmaradchi, about six kilometres to the east, where about half a million civilians have taken refuge.

"To avoid being trapped by the Sri Lankan army, functioning government agencies and civil administrative bodies are moving to new population centres in Tenmaradchi," said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in a statement issued by its London office.

The military offensive, which began Oct. 17, is the largest in Sri Lanka's 12-year civil war. The Tamil separatists are fighting for a homeland in the north and east.

The military says nearly 1,000 rebels and 221 soldiers have been killed, and 536 soldiers and 3,000 rebels wounded.

Anton Balasingham, LTTE's chief theoretician, said even if the soldiers take over Jaffna, it will not be a military success. "The northeast is a vast area and our guerrilla movement

cannot be crushed in conventional battle."

The military pressure will not force the LTTE to resume peace talks with the Sri Lankan government, Mr. Balasingham said in an interview with Outlook, a news weekly from New Delhi.

In New York, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said he was concerned about reports of the massive displacement of civilians in northern Sri Lanka.

"It is evident that humanitarian assistance on a significant scale will be essential to minimise suffering," Dr. Ghali said in a statement calling for relief assistance.

Nearly 65 per cent of the 800,000 people in mostly Tamil Jaffna peninsula have reportedly fled their homes to escape the intense artillery shelling and bombing of the Jaffna city area. Monsoon rains are expected to begin in the area next month.

Most of the civilians have fled toward towns east of Jaffna City, while others have taken ferries across the

Jaffna lagoon to rebel-held territory on the mainland, according to travelers who fled to government-controlled territory.

In Colombo, the capital in southern Sri Lanka, international relief agencies spent Friday hastily collecting tents, rolls of plastic and medicine to send to nearly half a million Tamils who became refugees because of the fighting, relief workers said.

Fearing rebel attacks, the government has tightened in the capital, Colombo, closing schools and deploying more soldiers and policemen on the streets. Tighter security measures were also announced at the international airport, where passengers will now check in their baggage in a building nearly three kilometres from the airport.

More than 37,000 people have been killed since Sri Lanka's civil war began in 1983 between predominantly Hindu Tamils and the Buddhist Sinhalese in the island nation south of India.

Aide denies Yeltsin has handed over powers

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin, in hospital for the last 10 days with heart problems, has not handed over powers to anybody during his illness, spokesman Sergei Medvedev told Interfax News Agency Saturday.

"The president has not given his authority over to anyone during his illness," Interfax quoted Mr. Medvedev as saying.

"There was no discussion about that during Friday's meeting between Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin," the first government official to meet Mr. Yeltsin since he was taken ill, said Friday he was coordinating the work of the so-called "power" ministries — defence, security, foreign policy and internal affairs.

These ministries normally report directly to the president.

"The president has to be partially relieved of these duties to give him a better chance to recover," Mr. Chernomyrdin told a news conference after seeing Mr. Yeltsin in hospital. "But of course we seek the president's advice on all key questions."

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he had "seen it in (Mr. Yeltsin's) eyes" that the president wanted him to work harder.

Mr. Medvedev said some correspondents had misinterpreted these comments, viewing them as an agreement to transfer some of the president's powers to the prime minister. This interpretation was "absolutely mistaken," Interfax quoted Mr. Medvedev as saying.

Mr. Yeltsin's advisers have repeatedly stressed

that Mr. Yeltsin remains in control of Russia and they say he has been reviewing key documents and keeping abreast of affairs of state.

Mr. Yeltsin appeared on television Friday for the first time since his illness, but he looked drawn and slurred his words in an edited 50-second appearance.

The 64-year-old leader, who has led Russia through almost four years of economic reforms, was filmed speaking to Chernomyrdin in hospital.

He said he was feeling "not bad" and that his recovery from a recurrence in his ischaemic heart condition was going according to plan.

The television pictures seemed designed to calm speculation over the extent of the president's illness, which involves an unstable blood supply to the heart

similar to the one which sidelined him for a month in July and August.

Defence Ministry officials told ITAR-TASS news agency Saturday that Minister Pavel Grachev might meet Mr. Yeltsin as early as Sunday.

Gen. Grachev said Friday that Mr. Yeltsin remained in charge of Russia's military machine.

"During his illness President Yeltsin has continued to fulfil the function of supreme commander. It is he who has been giving me my orders," Gen. Grachev said.

"As an immediate subordinate of the president, I report back to him by coded telegram and by telephone, but to the prime minister in the military-economic sphere," Gen. Grachev told TASS.

S.Africa's ANC celebrates resounding poll win

JOHANNESBURG (R) — President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress Saturday celebrated a resounding victory in the first all-race municipal elections, saying South Africa was now a complete democracy, from its poverty stricken villages and townships to the booming cities.

"All over the country our supporters and new councillors are celebrating our resounding victory," ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma told Reuters.

"There are parties all over because we are now a complete democracy, from every township street, town, city and province, all the way to the central government, South Africa is a democracy in the complete sense of the word," he said.

Local government election last group co-Chairman Frederik van Zyl Slabbert said a complete list of results would be available next week.

But election monitors said the ANC, which swept to power in last year's national and provincial elections, had 68 per cent of the total vote, with more than 550 results declared out of a total 696 councils.

They said the remaining results from the rural areas would not change the ANC's overwhelming victory.

The National Party provided the ANC's strongest opposition with 23 per cent of the vote, reflecting a similar position to that of the April 1994 elections.

The right-wing Freedom Front had won just over five per cent, with the rest made up of ratepayers' groups and smaller parties.

Final results from the polls in which about 10 million people voted, were unlikely to be announced until Sunday.

ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said voting in the National Party stronghold Western Cape province had swung to the ANC.

"The National Party (NP) was undermined by voters who were defecting, running away, fleeing, deserting, abandoning, leaving, departing, from the NP and voted for the ANC," he said.

In the Western Cape, which is controlled by former president F.W. de Klerk's NP, the ANC had

won 306 council seats compared to the National Party's 296 with independent candidates and smaller parties taking 271.

But Mr. de Klerk said the ANC had lost support compared to the first all-race polls in April last year.

"Until now it (the ANC) sank at least eight per cent and the NP rose by nine per cent," Mr. de Klerk told reporters at a post-poll National Party briefing in Pretoria Friday night.

But Mr. Mandela said in a victory speech to the party faithful: "The people of South Africa have spoken. They have shown their resolve to unite our nation and together build a better life for all."

Shevardnadze is hottest candidate in Georgia polls

TBILISI (R) — Edward Shevardnadze still looked the hottest candidate for president Saturday on the eve of Georgia's elections but his key rival won a last-minute boost when one of six candidates withdrew to back him.

Panteleimon Georgadze, a 72-year-old former Soviet KGB general, urged his Communist supporters in a televised speech late Friday to back Dzhamber Patiasvili.

"Georgia needs a person capable of uniting the country and pulling it out of the abyss. I call on everyone to give their votes to Dzhamber Patiasvili," Mr. Georgadze said.

Mr. Patiasvili is the only candidate posing a serious threat to Mr. Shevardnadze in the poll Sunday, when the volatile Transcaucasus republic also votes for a new parliament.

Mr. Georgadze's campaign failed to get going but Mr. Patiasvili has made a vigorous bid to upset the

heavily favoured Shevardnadze. Opinion polls give him up to 30 per cent of the vote.

Mud-slinging intensified in the last days of the campaign.

Mr. Shevardnadze Friday for the first time referred to a Soviet army attack in Tbilisi in 1989, when 20 people taking part in a peaceful pro-independence protest were killed. The issue of who was to blame is still extremely sensitive.

Mr. Patiasvili, Georgia's then Communist leader, denied guilt, saying the order came from Moscow where Mr. Shevardnadze was serving as foreign minister under Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Patiasvili is my (former) protegee, but his hands are covered in blood spilt on April 9," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

Mr. Patiasvili's campaign — chief Alexander Chachia accused Mr. Shevardnadze of "bringing the country to begging."

His televised speech was punctuated with footage from Georgia's civil war in late 1993. It showed Mr. Shevardnadze dressed in fatigues and then separately a group of nine alleged looters lined up on the ground who were later executed.

The pictures were assembled in a way which suggested Mr. Shevardnadze approved of the killings, carried out by government troops in the western town of Zugdidi.

The fall of the town marked the defeat of an armed attempt by former nationalist President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, ousted in a bloody 1992 revolt, to claw back power from Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Shevardnadze's top aide Petre Mamradze condemned the pictures. "The film was edited in order to create the impression that Shevardnadze was at the sight of the liquidation of the bandits. Such falsification is a crime and those guilty will bear the respon-

sibility," he said.

Mr. Mamradze also accused Mr. Patiasvili of building an alliance with former warlord Jaba Ioseliani and Mr. Georgadze's son Igor, a former security minister accused of masterminding an assassination attempt on Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Shevardnadze escaped with cuts and bruises when a powerful bomb exploded near his motorcade in August.

Fifty-four parties and blocs are contesting 225 seats in parliament, out of which 150 will be allocated on a proportional basis to those groups which clear a five percent barrier. Other places will be taken by candidates in first-past-the-post individual constituencies.

One-third of 3.2 million eligible voters need to take part in the parliamentary poll to make it valid. For the presidential election, the requirement is 50 per cent.

Monitors slam Tanzania polls as unfair

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Tanzania's first multi-party elections were not free and fair, a local monitoring group said Saturday, a statement to reinforce opposition demands that the polls be nullified.

The statement issued in Dar Es Salaam, the Tanzania Election Monitoring Committee (TEMCO), an independent non-governmental group made up of university lecturers and other professionals, said.

TEMCO was the biggest monitoring group in Tanzania's landmark but chaotic elections held last Sunday. Officials said it had

deployed monitors across the vast East African nation.

It was the first time a monitoring group had openly given its views on the presidential and parliamentary elections.

Western monitors and those from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) while privately admitting the whole exercise was fraught with loopholes have so far refused to speak out, saying they would respect the outcome of a High Court ruling on the matter.

What happened Sunday, Oct. 29 (polling day) cannot pass as free and fair — at least not in Dar Es Salaam and other regions which were similarly affected," TEMCO said.

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Editorial and advertising offices:
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One of the 'chosen few'

THE ASSASSINATION of Yitzhak Rabin at the hands of a Jewish terrorist in Tel Aviv on Saturday is the biggest shock ever to anyone who wanted to see peace in the Middle East. No one could or would ever forget that it was Mr. Rabin who, along with his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, changed the course of Middle Eastern history by switching his predecessor Yitzhak Shamir's tactic of stalling for decades Israel's peace talks with the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, as Mr. Shamir himself admitted when the Oslo accord was signed, and opted for a pragmatic direction that aimed at realistic solutions to the basic Arab-Israeli conflict.

For us in the Arab World, it is also a stark reminder that Jewish terror, which victimised the Arabs for decades, is still very much alive, and we have to be alert against further manifestations of the fanaticism of some who continue to hang on to the theme of the "promised land" and of "the chosen people."

Mr. Rabin was indeed one of the "chosen few," but for a different purpose than the hard-core Zionists and Jewish terrorists deemed as their mission.

And those who think that the death of Mr. Rabin would speak the wheels of peace in the Middle East are gravely mistaken. The process has gone too far ahead to be reversed. Furthermore, the quick assumption of prime ministerial powers by Mr. Peres, who is equally committed to peace as Mr. Rabin was, is the strongest signal that Israel could send to the world community that there is no turning back from the course adopted by the late prime minister.

We Jordanians have much more a reason to grieve. We cannot forget for one moment that one of the priorities of Mr. Rabin was to consolidate the state of peace between Jordan and Israel through ensuring that the fruits of peace were brought to the people of Jordan.

The very approach that Mr. Rabin assumed in peace talks with the Arabs spoke volumes for his vision. The man was realistic, understanding very well that unless Israel addressed the very root of the conflict with the Palestinians peace would never come to the Middle East. It was clearly evident throughout Mr. Rabin's every pronouncement that he understood the complexities of peace with the Palestinians and the rest of the Arab World.

Israel never had a leader like Mr. Rabin, and is unlikely that it would ever have one like him either.

Granted that some of Mr. Rabin's public statements might not have been to the liking of many, but then those had underestimated the political acumen of the former military officer, who was equally vibrant in his search for peace as in his quest to take territory in the wars that Israel fought with the Arabs.

The tears that rolled down the cheeks of the tens of thousands gathered in Tel Aviv and the Israeli nation at large to reaffirm their support for peace were the unique tribute to a leader who led the Jewish state from the darkness of conflict and bloodshed to the brightness of peace. We share in the sorrow of the Israelis in the demise of a man who changed the history of the sons of Abraham.

For those who have any doubts about the commitment that Mr. Rabin had to making peace, the words that the late prime minister spoke a few minutes before he was shot should be enough: "I was a military man for 27 years. I waged war as long as there was no chance for peace."

"I believe there is now a chance for peace, a great chance, and must take advantage of it...I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace and are ready to take a chance for peace."

Those who rejoice in the death of Mr. Rabin are short-sighted, and that is to say the least. They do not realise that it was on Mr. Rabin that the hopes of a better Middle East were largely pinned if only because of the man's vision and courage. It is not at all difficult for us to believe that Mr. Rabin cared little whether he was reelected in the next elections and that what he really wanted was to go down in history as the one Israeli who led his nation to peace with its neighbours. Going down in history as a martyr for peace he did, but at a great loss to the entire peace-loving community in the world.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

MENA yields immediate and future dividends

DID THE Middle East and North Africa economic summit (MENA) which ended in Amman Tuesday succeed or fail? The answer depends on the objectives of the parties. Those objectives vary from one party to another. Variation may reach contradiction at one extreme and competition at the other.

From a pure organisational viewpoint, the conference which was attended by 1,500 participants and covered by 600 journalists was an outstanding success. The proceedings went smooth and every thing was planned and taken care of in advance. There is consensus that the mega-conference was well-managed and the preparations close to perfection. The delegations did not expect Jordan to handle the occasion so well, especially when this was the first conference of its size.

This operational success is important because it demonstrated to all participating Arab and foreign businessmen and potential investors that Jordan is blessed by a competent public administration of high calibre and that it is qualified to open up its national economy and deal with the world with confidence and on equal footing.

From the economic viewpoint, several prompt results were achieved, the most prominent of which was the Qatari gas deal, which will cost \$4.3 billion on both sides. Jordan signed several agreements with the World Bank, Japan and others, which secured around \$400 million of soft loans, which will be withdrawn before the end of the year, resulting in a much needed augmentation of the Central Bank reserves of foreign exchange.

However, the conference was not purely for governments, which can make prompt decisions or announce them in a big way. It was mainly a private business conference, including managers of multinational corporations. Those people do not necessarily take decisions inside the conferences which they attend.

From this angle, the conference was meant for contacts

not contracts. Part of these contacts resulted in agreements and letters of intent, but everything remains confined to the parties concerned. Businessmen came to gather information, make impressions and evaluate the climate for investment. This will definitely influence their future decisions. Weeks, months and perhaps years will pass with results unfolding gradually and without much noise.

The Amman declaration, issued at the conclusion of the conference, was of governments making. It is not the right instrument to evaluate the real results of the conference as a forum for dialogue and exchange of information and points of view. The private sector is not in the habit of voting for collective decisions or commit itself to them. Businessmen make individual investment decisions, one at a time, based on the needed capital, expected return and the risk involved, as evidenced by specific and detailed studies. The conference was far more important than the Amman declaration suggests.

The final declaration, however, revealed the formation of four regional institutions, namely the Middle East Bank of Cooperation and Development to be based in Cairo, the Regional Council for Tourism and Travel to be based in Tunis, the Regional Council for Private Sector Cooperation to be based in Amman and the General Secretariat of the Summit in Rabat.

Contrary to expectations, the Israeli delegation did not dominate the conference or turn its proceedings to Israeli advantage. Had it not been for the press conference of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, we would not have felt the presence of the Israeli delegation.

The conference cost the government several millions of dinars, and it cost officials and private sector leaders a lot of working hours. But seeing the results, one can confidently conclude that the summit was worth every dinar and every effort invested in this endeavour.

M. KAHIL



For business growth, the Middle East needs enterprise funds

By Adnan M. Khashoggi

RIYADH — In 1989, as centrally planned economies began to disintegrate in Poland and Hungary, U.S. policymakers knew that local private businesses would need capital quickly, but that private foreign investors would be reluctant to enter these markets without a track record on which to calculate risk and return levels.

Traditional aid programmes were ill-suited to the task of individual business development, and enterprise funds were conceived as an innovative means of directly assisting the development of the private sectors. The Bush administration later established enterprise funds for the Czech and Slovak Republics and Bulgaria as well.

This concept, extended by President Bill Clinton to Russia and other nations of the region and to southern Africa, now encompasses 12 funds representing more than \$1 billion.

The peace accords in the Middle East present much the same opportunity as the roundtable talks in Poland in the spring of 1989 and the Velvet Revolution and the fall of the Berlin Wall a few months later. Policymakers must recognise, however, that peace will be a reality only when basic human economic needs are satisfied.

The peoples of the Middle East and North Africa are little different from their contemporaries in Central and Eastern Europe in their desire to have meaningful work, build their own businesses and provide for their families. To do so, small and

medium sized entrepreneurs need capital, and they need it quickly.

The needs are pressing not only in the West Bank and Gaza but throughout the region.

The essence of the enterprise fund is that instead of providing one-time government grants, assistance donor monies seed a private investment firm with capital.

In Poland and Hungary, the U.S. government provided for capital bases of \$250 million and \$70 million, respectively. Depending on the level of a recipient nation's development, \$50 million to \$100 million appears to be the minimum capitalisation required for an effective, self-sustaining enterprise fund. Such money from public and/or private sources could be allocated over a period of four to five years, with adjustment for the absorption rate of capital in the local economy.

The enterprise funds open local offices and with an initial capital infusion begin directly to provide equity investment, loans and technical assistance that local private entrepreneurs need to start businesses, modernise, grow and become successful.

Enterprise funds are managed by investment professionals who understand business and are willing to take risks. Initially, most are expatriates working with local people knowledgeable about economic, social and political conditions. Over time, there has been a transfer of skills in sound investment practices and procedures. The

Hungarian fund's investment staff is now made up exclusively of Hungarians.

Enterprise fund managers are in turn overseen by an experienced, independent board of directors comprised of capable foreign and local citizens.

Enterprise funds can put government-sourced money to work quickly, on commercial terms, without the encumbrances of bureaucratic or political interference. Unlike traditional foreign assistance, which is expended, this money is invested and therefore not dissipated, remaining as fund assets that have the potential to grow and be reinvested.

Experience in Europe shows that enterprise funds have been effective not only in providing capital. They also demonstrate that investment opportunities do exist (the Polish fund has attracted an additional \$100 million in a parallel private fund). They introduce new technologies and management concepts, and serve as models for capital market development, sound business operations, good customer service and ethical business practices.

Their activities show a sometimes confused public the value of business growth and profit-making that form the foundation for a market economy.

Enterprise funds for Middle East and North African countries could easily be established based on the same models as have proved effective in Europe.

If my proposal for a Palestinian Enterprise Fund had been implemented last year, at least some donor assistance could have been channelled quickly and effi-

ciently to small and medium-sized business in the West Bank and Gaza. That capital could bypass government bureaucracy, which is challenged enough with the demands of building an administration and legal regime, and be put to work immediately by the private sector.

Similarly, enterprise funds could be created to provide financing to local business people and to build the institutions they need in Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Morocco, Kuwait and other countries in the region.

There is little reason to wonder why social upheaval in the West Bank and Gaza continues today when the early promises of massive assistance were unmet by an effective effort to demonstrate tangible benefits at the grass-roots level of the Palestinian economy.

Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, the wealth of human resources and paucity of jobs provide fertile ground for radical ideas. Both the developed nations of the West and local governments must begin to take more radical action to address the demands of ever increasing populations for economic opportunity.

Real economic progress and peace will not be achieved in the Middle East unless assistance programmes can be designed that will capitalise on the power of the private sector to meet the individual's needs for economic opportunity.

The writer is an international financier. The above article is reprinted from the Herald Tribune.

The cancellation of import licenses

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

EVERYDAY JORDAN is moving closer towards a market economy. Many steps have been taken which either liberate markets, privatise sectors of the economy or reduce barriers to international trade. Two months ago the Council of Ministers approved a decision to enter Jordan into the folds of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). This step could not have been more timely since it signalled to the world, just before the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Summit, Jordan's intent to enter the ranks of the world competitors. This move will increase output and improve quality as Jordan becomes industrious in areas where it has a comparative relative advantage.

Many of Jordan's new laws have been directed at satisfying WTO guidelines. One of the requirements of WTO is to provide transparency for import license procedures, to reduce these procedures and not to require import licenses in some instances. Why? Because import licenses can be used as barriers to trade. A government, instead of imposing a new tariff on a product, may opt to complicate the procedures required to obtain a license for the product's importation. Vague, lengthy and expensive documentation procedures tend to increase the cost of the import. This cost is then passed on to the consumer in degrees, depending on whether the product is a necessity or a luxury. As a result both the consumer and the importer are hurt by this indirect protection.

Jordan opted as of Nov. 1995 to classify products into two categories in terms of import licensing requirements. Some products do not require import licenses while others do. The ones which require a license have the import license procedure published with clarity and transparency. All documents must be made available to the WTO for further study and evaluation to assure compliance. Some may view this move to liberalise import licenses as detrimental to the economy because:

—It is claimed that these licenses can provide a statistical database which foretells imports ahead of their actual arrival in Jordan.

—This step does not aid the private sector but harms it through the provision of cheaper imports.

—Total Jordanian exports are a fraction of total imports, and the trade deficit may increase due to this new legislation.

In short, the above arguments reek of protectionism which supposedly died a few hundred years ago at the hands of Adam Smith, the single parent of modern economics. Some, including this writer, see the following advantages to the license requirement minimisation:

—Protectionists seem to forget that the nation does not produce only one good but many products. Therefore, it can propel its economy through specialisation in something in which it has a comparative advantage and buy from another nation the products in which it has a comparative disadvantage.

Licenses can be used to generate monopolies when they are exclusive. Therefore, their elimination tends to increase domestic competition.

—The fact that licenses serve as a data source does not justify their use, other means can be used to obtain data more efficiently. Simply because somebody has obtained an import license does not mean that he will act on it and import exactly the amount specified in the license, he may bring less. Furthermore, the license date does not specify the entry date of the commodity into Jordan.

—License procedures require time to fulfill. There is a cost associated with this time. This cost is known to economists as the opportunity cost which is the cost of the forgone opportunity. The time of entrepreneurs that is wasted is an economic cost which makes the economic activity more expensive, reduces the productivity of the nation, and decreases its efficiency. This cost is passed on to the consumer who, correspondingly, will hurt. The economy is not made up only of producers, but also of consumers. Many economists in the United States have estimated the cost of protectionism far exceeds the benefits to domestic producers. Although there are no similar studies in Jordan, the conclusion must be similar.

—Reduction of licensing requirements reduces, at least in principle, the import fees paid by importers; their savings can be passed to the consumer.

—Fewer licenses means a smaller public sector, fewer market distortions and a relatively larger private sector.

Licenses are viewed by many economists as a barrier to trade that is more market-distorting than tariffs because licenses may lead to the creation of monopolies. In reducing import licensing procedures, Jordan has again moved towards a more market-oriented economy.

LETTERS

A utopian moment

To the Editor:

HOW WONDERFUL would it have been if master Plato had shared that moment with me three days ago while watching the live broadcast of the MENA summit. For he would have been able to see the picture he drew a long time ago, vivid and alive. I saw it all, a big arena full of decision makers discussing the improvement and the development of their nations in a rational and a "peaceful" manner. I am sure Plato would have felt euphoric had he been able to see the world living leaders working together in the Amman summit to make the region a better place to live in.

Bayan M. Shadaideh
 Amman.

'Degrading' news

To the Editor:

THE NEWS item published by the Jordan Times about prostitutes and condoms in the Philippines on the Oct. 26-27 issue was degrading. It has been months since I started buying the Jordan Times. And there are things that I had noticed in your paper. In your Home News section, you cover political, social and economic issues. But you hide news about crime from the reader because you do not publish the names of the victims and the suspects. As such, what you produce are incomplete reports, better to trash them than to print them. In short, what I want to say is that you must do a better job. Exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press before bringing such funny news about the Philippines. I call the publication of the news item about prostitutes in the Philippines a fatal discrimination against us as Filipinos. The report was, of course, a news from the street and has no facts at all.

Duria Villegas,
 Amman.

FEATURES

To have and have not

John Kenneth Galbraith seeks an answer to the causes of the current discontent with politics

CONSIDERING THAT, with the exception of the Balkans and the deeper depths of Africa, the world is at peace and the general economic situation is reasonably good, the present state of social and political discontent calls for an explanation. Why in the United States, in Britain and Europe, even in Japan, is there such strongly expressed disaffection? Why are so many people so eloquently unhappy, and especially with the way they are governed? If we were deep in economic depression or, in the United States, contending with something as palpably insane as the Vietnam war, there would be a ready explanation. None of these matters now afflicts us. So why the discontent?

Some of the bad tone comes, no doubt, from having left behind the tensions of the cold war. There is now time and space for the more routine distempers of everyday life. I respect the views of my psychiatrically oriented friends; no doubt they do offer some of the explanation. But I am persuaded that there is something more.

One returns, as always, to economic determinism. The problem comes from the new class structure of the economically fortunate lands, specifically as it concerns the state. Once, there was capital and labour, the capitalists and the working masses, with the farmers

and the remnants of larger landed and aristocratic interest tucked in variously on the two sides. Control of government was vital in this context. It served and protected economic interest or it was the instrument by which this was curbed, humanised and, at the extreme, disestablished. The state was the protector of the haves; its authority was the desire of the have-nots. The modern class divide is not between capitalists and workers, but between the very large number of workers who are well-rewarded and those who struggle to survive; between those who could not survive without help from the state and those who, for a generally less ample return, are in service and menial occupations.

In considerable measure the numerous poor who lack money and voice are, politically speaking, effectively out of sight. In the United States, now the clearest case, we have a three-class system — the rich, the middle class and the poor. But in all popular and media expression there is only one class, only the middle class, commonly referred to with exaggeration as the hard-working middle class. There is no equally common reference to an upper class, to the rich; they have taken cover behind the middle class. Nor is there reference to a lower class; that would be socially indecent. We have

an arithmetical marvel, a three class-system consisting of one class.

Out of the above comes much of the current disempowerment. We have, in the fortunate countries, an electorate dominated by relatively fortunate people. And from this has come the greatly changed view of the state, of government, as compared with the days of the old class struggle. The rich and the comfortably affluent do not need it as the buttress of their power and well-being as did the old-fashioned capitalists. Many of its services — housing, education of the young, recreation, books and libraries, even the provision of security guards and personal protection in the cities — they can provide for themselves. Taxes are now the great and omnipresent threat.

There is more. The functions of government have also been adjusted in popular attitudes so that those for the underclass have come to be seen as having an especially oppressive role. Those government functions and services that

downsizing, as it is called, thus losing their salary and even employment. Or, in any case, they live in fear thereof.

The underlying fact has been a massive redistribution of income and wealth from the middle to the highest income brackets. In the last years the upper one per cent of income recipients in the United States have had a huge gain in income and wealth, and the upper 10 per cent have done very well. The lower middle class and, of course, the poor have lost ground.

In the market system, as now with political correctness it is called — the word capitalism is out of fashion — the great solvent of social tension is increasing personal income. This many no longer have. And on this again the adverse attitude is directed against government and the poor; the allocation to the upper-income brackets goes largely untroubled.

I do think that the prospect is better in Britain than in the United States. In Britain, the humane services of the modern state are more deeply entrenched; the chance for the kind of revolt that Newt Gingrich is now leading in Congress is more remote. But now specifics. Britain's medical care system, though costly and imperfect, has a large and eloquent clientele. Welfare, the basic safety net, does keep people from starving, maybe keeps the poor from taking to the streets. In any case, to live adjacent to hungry and homeless people is not all that pleasant.

The current discontent, I have sufficiently stressed, is focused on the government. For the poor and their compassionate friends this is unfortunate, for there is no other instrument for their protection, let alone salvation. But we must face the fact: the problem lies deep in the social and political structure. The old-fashioned capitalist entrepreneur and his allies were numerically a minority. Their social effort and aggression were aimed against the numerically superior masses. Here was a limiting force. Not now. The comfortable may well be a majority now. Those who depend on support from the state in its varied forms and those who share compassionately in their need are now a minority.

All writing of this sort seeks to have a happy ending. I hope that the concerned and the compassionate will join with the underclass for a better attitude towards government and for needed social policy and action. I am not at all sure it is going to happen.

John Kenneth Galbraith is Emeritus Professor of Economics at Harvard. The above article is reprinted from The Observer

Rabin is assassinated

(Continued from page 1)

witness said.

The gunman was pushed against a wall by uniformed police and bundled into a car, witnesses said.

Amir told police he was attacking alone and did not regret what he had done, adding he had planned his attack in cold blood, a senior police official said.

"I acted alone on God's orders and I have no regrets," the radio quoted Amir as telling police investigators.

The attack was claimed by the previously unknown Jewish Avenging Organisation, initialised IN.

But in another anonymous call to the military radio, a caller said the attack was carried out by two extremist organisations Zo Artzenou and the outlawed Kahane Chai.

Two minutes before the attack Mr. Rabin told military radio: "This was not the launch of the election campaign, but a demonstration to prove that most people want peace and are above all against violence."

The rally titled "Peace Yes, Violence No" had been called by the left-wing to counter a rise in right-wing opposition to the spread of self-rule to the Palestinians across the West Bank after its launch last year in Gaza and Jericho.

Just 90 minutes before he was shot, Mr. Rabin addressed "a peace rally, attended by an estimated 100,000 people in Tel Aviv's Kings of Israel Square, and joined in the singing of peace songs."

He told the rally: "This government, which I have the privilege to head with my friend (Foreign Minister) Shimon Peres, decided to give peace a chance, a peace which will solve most of the state of Israel's problems."

"I was a military man for 27 years. I waged war as long as there was no chance for peace."

"I believe there is now a chance for peace, a great chance, and we must take advantage of it for those standing here, and for those who are not here — and they are many. I have always believed that the majority of the people want peace and are ready to take a chance for peace."

"And you, by coming to this rally, prove... that the people truly want peace and oppose violence, violence erodes the basis of Israeli

Jordan, world denounce killing

(Continued from page 1)

"In the name of the Palestinian people I offer my condolences to his wife, his family, the Israeli government and the Israeli people."

Former right-wing prime minister Yitzhak Shamir said he was shocked. "It's unbelievable," he added.

"This is the result of the right-wing propaganda. They will pay heavily for what has been done," said Health Minister Ephraim Sneh.

"I hope that they will have the ability... all of us, the Israelis and the Palestinians, will have the ability to overcome this tragedy and achieve peace and security for the Israeli people and the peoples of the region after long bloody wars and conflicts," a presidential statement said.

Egypt condemns the slaying as a criminal act and rejects all acts of violence and terrorism, Mr. Mubarak's statement said.

"It also stresses that creating comprehensive peace and justice is a duty that only the brave can bear," it added.

Lebanon Culture Minister Michel Edde, in a first official reaction from Beirut, told AFP the death of Mr. Rabin could push the region into a "period of turbulence during which the peace negotiations will be blocked."

"Israel always said it wanted peace but the majority of the Israelis were afraid of peace," said Mr. Edde, whose country's negotiations with Israel have been deadlocked since the peace process was launched in 1991.

"Rabin was both a dove and a hawk while his successor (Foreign Minister Shimon) Peres is a dove who, I believe, will not be able to reach quickly a just and comprehensive solution."

French President Jacques Chirac expressed his "deep consternation" over the killing.

The French authorities condemn in the strongest possible terms this cowardly attack which, beyond the person of the prime minister, in fact targets the peace process itself," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe expressed "consternation and profound sadness at the assassination."

Reaction from anti-Israeli guerrillas was gunfire and jubilation.

Volleys of tracer bullets lit up the night sky over Beirut's Shiite Muslim-populated southern suburbs as Lebanese television and radio stations flashed the news of the assassination.

Men in the Hizbollah guerrilla stronghold of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon and in the

defend his country. Today he gave his life to bring it a lasting peace," he said tearfully.

"The world has lost one of its greatest men — a warrior for his nation's freedom, and now a martyr for his nation's peace," he said.

Mr. Clinton will attend Mr. Rabin's funeral Monday, the White House announced minutes after the president's brief remarks in the Rose Garden.

The president will leave Washington Sunday and has invited the Democratic and Republican congressional leaders to accompany him, said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

King mourns

(Continued from page 1)

spect as a symbol of decency, integrity and courage. He was a soldier who fell a martyr, a true soldier of peace and since life is but a journey, his legacy will ever be a most worthy and honourable one.

"May God rest his soul in peace and help us all to continue his struggle for the better future he sought for generations to come, and may his last words in the peace rally, rally all around his noble objective."

"With our deepest sympathies and condolences to his family and to you Mr. President and to the government and people of Israel."

I am, your sincere friend, Hussein I

Listen to my friend

Booker prize winner Ben Okri, in a plea for Ken Sar-Wiwa's life, argues that writers are the barometers of a nation's health

IF YOU want to know what is happening in an age or in a nation, find out what is happening to the writers, the town criers; for they are the seismographs that calibrate impending earthquakes in the spirits of the times. Are the writers sleeping? Then the age is in a dream. Are the writers celebrating? Then the first flowers of a modest golden age are sending their fragrances across to the shores of future possibilities. Are the writers strangely silent? Then the age is broadening with undeciphered disturbances.

But when you hear that writers have been inexplicably murdered, silenced, that their houses have mysteriously burnt down, that grotesque lies are told about them, that they have fled their countries and dwell in exile, but above all when you hear that writers have been sentenced to death by undemocratic tribunals, then you can be sure that the demons of war and the angels of fragmentation have already begun their dreaded descent into the blood of the millions of people who inhabit that land. Then you know that the air of the land is already rich with corruption and terror, that the air is unbreatheable, that the lives are insufferable, that the soil of that land has already begun to deliver its harvest of dead bodies and the bizarre plants of disaster; and that liberty is dead on the fields, that the leaders have placed the nation under the grim sentence of death.

For the writer is the barometer of the age. Elections can be rigged, the results undemocratically annulled and the rightful leaders installed in the presidential quarters of prison houses. The people can be frightened into sullen acceptance, into cynicism even for the sake of their children, for the sake of food; and they can go on living, with the help of their incredible ability to

who bear all the suffering and who create such small miracles of survival; love for the children who grow up under a generous sun and who do not know just how distorted and blood-ridden will be the futures that they inherit; love for the regeneration of a people who deserve so much better and who never seem to get any justice; many good days or any hope that gets materialised.

It is love for mankind's better future, that we may all be better, that our mistakes be higher ones, and that the lowest level that can be found in living conditions be at least ones that are adequate; it is love that drives the seed into becoming the future tree; it is love that makes people extend their hands across seas, across race, across creeds to forge links that make the human dream grow into splendid human realities; it is love that drives a mother to protect a child against suffering; it is love that makes the writer weep when the blood tide announces itself just over the horizon.

And when this love has been sentenced to death then those who have hearts that beat with blood, those with flesh that feels the wind and the caress of a lover and life's infinitely great sufferings, anyone who live life within, should hear this cry — for a writer in Nigeria has just been sentenced to death, sentenced for trying to remind the nation in his own way of something that should be an acknowledged law that governs the rise and fall of nations: that what does not grow dies, what does not face its truth perishes, that those without vision deserve the destruction that will fall upon them, and that who-so-ever believes that freedom can be suppressed and yet themselves live in freedom is hopelessly deluded.

Either a nation faces its uncomfortable truths, or it is overwhelmed by them; for there is a prophetic consequence in the perpetuation of life just as there is an unavoidable fate that refuses to see.

There are some things on Earth that are stronger than death, and one of these is the eternal human quest for justice. A people cannot live without it, and in due course they will die to make it possible for their children. Fables are made of this. Anyone who can listen, hear me: a writer in Nigeria has been sentenced to death in the quest of a better life for his people. The consequence is incalculable. His name is Ken Sar-Wiwa, and he is my friend.

The Guardian

OSCE chief welcomes Jordan bid

(Continued from page 1)

tions with the EU...." Mr. Kovach said.

The foreign minister said Hungarian tourists would like to visit and that in this context Sharif Zeid had promised to study the easy issuance of Jordanian visas to Hungarians.

Mr. Kovach said his country appreciated Jordan's key role in the Middle East peace process.

The Jordan News Agency.

(Continued from page 12)

aimed at dividing up the region," the government daily Al Jumhuriya said, denouncing "calls by certain Arab parties to institute a federal regime in Iraq."

King Hussein said in an interview published Oct. 17 in the Financial Times that a "federal Iraq could be the solution" to a country that threatens to be split into Kurd, Shiite and Arab Sunni countries.

Al Jumhuriya said: "Catastrophe will strike

those who think they can affect the eternal principles" of Iraqi unity, while their country, "lacks geopolitical power."

The comments marked the first media criticism of Jordan here since the Kingdom granted asylum to Gen. Kamel.

"What saddens and worries us is that Israel is trying to turn Jordan into a force for Zionist interests," Al Jumhuriya said. "We pray for God to protect Jordan and its people from the harm of the sons of Zion."

For the writer is the barometer of the age. Elections can be rigged, the results undemocratically annulled and the rightful leaders installed in the presidential quarters of prison houses. The people can be frightened into sullen acceptance, into cynicism even for the sake of their children, for the sake of food; and they can go on living, with the help of their incredible ability to

Follow-up to Amman economic summit underway

By George Hishmeh
USIA Staff Writer

AMMAN — "The Amman Economic Summit provided the opportunity to meet many serious business people from several sectors in a concentrated period of time which normally takes months to make those contacts."

"A year's worth of contacts in three days."

"The contacts cannot be made anywhere else."

These are but a small sample of responses to a questionnaire given American businessmen who said they would consider attending next year's Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit in Cairo.

Gary Grappo, the top coordinator for the Amman Economic Summit at the American embassy here, is elated with these responses and the encouraging remarks

left by many American businessmen who visited the highly successful American Business Centre which undertook the mammoth job of matching American businessmen with regional businessmen.

The centre moved to the Marriott Hotel here for the duration of the summit and had desks at three other local hotels where about 1,000 businessmen came looking for joint venture partners. An unexpected visitor, Mr. Grappo added, was Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority, who asked whether a similar centre can be established in Gaza.

"If you look at the programme, everything that followed the opening plenary (session) had a strict economic orientation, responding to economic or business interests," explained Mr.

Grappo, the economic and commercial counsellor at the U.S. embassy, in an interview.

He added, "although this was an economic summit, this was a business summit."

Mr. Grappo believes people are now sold on the concept of the summit as "the place to learn about the region and the place where you want to do business in the Middle East." He had no doubt that a greater number of businessmen will go to Cairo, the venue of next year's session.

For Jordan, he continued, the summit was "a unique and an extraordinary opportunity" to graciously and magnificently host a little over 2,000 government and business representatives from 63 countries, according to the latest figures.

"It is rare when you have 1,000 business executives

from all over the world coming to your country and attending a conference like this, and having the opportunity to see first hand what your country is like and what opportunities are there," he said.

In order to capitalise on contacts that took place between Jordanian and American businessmen, Mr. Grappo said, he is hoping a preliminary Jordanian mission can leave this month for the United States "to plan for a larger mission to take place in the spring of next year."

He continued, "we have to go back to the people who came and remind them the summit was a step and not an end, and do whatever we can to help them to follow up on any opportunity that they may be interested in doing in Jordan."

It will be a "reverse trade mission," is how he put it.

"so that (Jordanians) can talk to Americans in the American environment, see how we do businesses there, and see what American businessmen are capable of doing."

Mr. Grappo advised that one should not take "an accountant's perspective" on the 2,000 projects presented at the conference.

"All these projects that were presented are not the total universe of opportunities in the region," he stressed. "There were many more opportunities at the conference."

As far as Mr. Grappo was concerned, the whole meaning behind the conference was to get the business people to talk to each other and exchange ideas about opportunities.

While many of the projects announced during the conference could have been worked out elsewhere, the announce-

ment here served to "kick start the summit," said Mr. Grappo. He agreed that business does not work with spectacular events taking place at one time but rather takes time to develop.

He continued, "this summit did that. It started this development process — this process of businessmen talking to one another, learning, in the case of the Middle East, that business can operate here, that they are welcome here and there are opportunities here."

Mr. Grappo had no doubt that the summit "definitely succeeded" in improving the image of the Middle East and North Africa region in the eyes of the international business community.

Mr. Grappo was aware of the high expectations generated by the publicity on the conference and that people outside the meeting halls may

be disappointed because, as he put it, they thought "these countries and businesses were coming here to write cheques."

This is not an aid-donors conference, he stressed, "this is not what all this was about. This is business."

He cautioned that one cannot really measure the success of this summit except months down the road and only when business people return to explore the projects or the opportunities with the contacts they had during the summit.

"I have talked to some people who have never been to Jordan before, who were very impressed with what they saw, and would consider coming back to look into greater detail and depth at these opportunities," he added.

Mr. Grappo said, from his perspective, if 15 to 20 per cent of the Americans came

back for a second visit or invited a Jordanian partner to the U.S., this would have been a successful summit.

Turning to the question of foreign investments in the region, Mr. Grappo said it is important to point out that all the countries in the region, as national markets, may find it difficult to attract foreign investors because most of them are fairly small.

However, he continued, if Jordan for example can promote itself as part of a larger regional market comprising anywhere between 50 and 100 million people, "then it is a far different situation for a potential foreign investor."

But before any of the countries can hope to do this, he added, trade barriers among them must be lowered. "That's when you see foreign investors taking a very strong interest in long-term investment in the region."

Jordanian businessmen are most active at trade fair in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — The Iraqi capital is buzzing with Arab businessmen, vying for contracts to supply the sanctions-hit country with items not barred under the United Nations embargo.

Businessmen from Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan and Palestinian Authority move from one ministry to another, striking contracts which one official said were worth millions of dollars.

Iraq, its oil exports banned by U.N. trade sanctions and assets abroad frozen, does not have ready cash to pay. But several Arab traders said they were ready to accept deferred payment for food deliveries in the hope of being given favourable treatment when sanctions are removed.

"Needs are huge but hurdles are also numerous," said Mohammed Najeeb, director of Tunisia's section at an international trade fair being held in Baghdad.

About 30 Tunisian companies are taking part and Mr. Najeeb said managers were busy trying to find ways to meet Iraqi needs.

He said Tunisia exported to Iraq foodstuffs worth millions of dollars. "The only problem is payment. The cash is not always ready," he said.

He said Tunisian trade

with Iraq was worth \$100 million prior to the imposition of U.N. trade sanctions imposed for Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

From Gaza and the West Bank came 26 businessmen representing 22 companies. "We are here with our Palestinian passports and I am sure our Iraqi brethren will give us preferential treatment," said Atif Meldani, director of the Palestinian pavilion at the fair.

The Palestinians have exhibited a wide range of products, from foodstuffs, medicines, and ready-made clothes to agricultural machinery.

Representatives of 35 Moroccan companies are also in Baghdad. "The Iraqis mainly need spare parts, tyres, food and medicine. We investigate the market and discuss terms of payment," said Ali Aresh Al Mustafa, organising the Moroccan exhibits in Baghdad.

The Jordanians have on show products of 47 companies and their delegation of 20 businessmen is the most

active. "We have no payment problem. Our government imports Iraqi oil and pays for our increasing volume of trade with Baghdad," said a Jordanian businessman who refused to be named.

"We hope politics will have no bearing on our trade. Baghdad is our breathing lung," he said.

Jordan imports all its oil needs from Iraq and is allowed to continue its imports under a provision of the U.N. sanctions.

Political tension between Amman and Baghdad, prompted by the defection to Jordan last August of two senior figures in the Iraqi government, seems to have had little impact on trade.

Electrical appliances, chemicals, metal equipment, construction materials, diamond blades and boilers are part of the great variety of exhibits in Jordan's section. Algerian businessmen said they were keen to meet most of Iraq's pressing needs for agricultural machinery and equipment.

They had samples of their newly-manufactured tractors and combine harvesters of which Iraq had asked for more than 1,000.

"About 500 have already arrived in Iraq and we have set up a service department in Baghdad as we provide a two-year guarantee," said Mustafa Boukousha.

For the Arab countries attending the fair and dealing with Baghdad, Iraq's Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan pledged in an address this week preferential treatment once sanctions on his country were eased or lifted.

Egypt is not present at the fair but in order not to miss the train quickly dispatched what is dubbed here "an official trade delegation" which arrived in Baghdad Friday.

FAO head says agency will have to make cuts

ROME (R) — The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Friday the agency would have to make cuts in 1996-97 but vowed that this would not impair its work of feeding the hungry.

"It would be illusory to think that budget cuts will have no impact on the organisation's work," FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said in a statement at a news conference.

"But I plan to propose cuts that would not impair FAO's core activities and be acceptable to all member states," he added.

He said cuts would initially be carried out in administrative areas.

"It's not staff against programmes. Staff are part of programmes," he replied in answer to a question. "To an institution of technical assistance like FAO, staff are the main element of the programmes."

"Therefore if we have to

cut programmes, we will definitely have to cut staff," he stressed.

He said the criteria for cuts had been agreed Thursday but no specific details were available.

FAO's conference, the 174-nation organisation's governing body, last week approved a budget of \$650 million for 1996-97, compared with a previous \$673 million.

The agency, whose employees have been cut in the last two years, has been criticised in the past by major donors such as the United States for being over-bureaucratic.

Mr. Diouf had formally requested a budget of \$697.8 million, saying that was a

no-growth budget which amounted to the equivalent of what the inhabitants of nine developed countries spent on cat and dog food in six days.

Three countries who had sought an even smaller FAO budget — the United States, Britain and Germany — abstained from the vote which was adopted without opposition.

"We have had to take into account the realities of the international situation," Mr. Diouf told the news conference. "It was the maximum possible and the maximum feasible in the current context. It certainly wasn't what we hoped for."

He said useful cost comparisons could be made be-

tween FAO's budget and the amount countries spent on arms.

"If we were spending less on arms, we would be able to provide not only the resources for international organisations put in place by the world community but we would be in a better position to consider the social needs of the poor."

FAO's conference, meeting on the 50th anniversary of the Rome-based agency, also passed a code of conduct for responsible fisheries and approved a unanimous resolution to hold a world food summit in Rome in November next year.

It said the "low-budget, high-impact summit" would aim to build consensus and solidarity for a united effort to ensure food issues were raised at top political levels.

FAO figures show some 800 million people are suffering from chronic malnutrition in the developing world.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1995
ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to think over what you want in life and planning just how to attain your ambitions. Work up greater enthusiasm.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get together with private advisers and make better plans for gaining your finest ambitions. Be romantic this evening with your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day for having a fun time with good friends and discussing new outlets and interests. Work on a favourite hobby tonight.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Stop putting on time and do whatever will gain you greater prestige with the public in general and you will have great success today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a fine day for studying into new opportunities and taking the right steps which will gain your aims towards being successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A different attitude towards your loved one can bring results and greater accord at this time for a greater relationship.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be with progressive individuals who can help you to be more aggressive and get into interests which are more worthwhile.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Give your career activities an added spark and you get much better results and added benefits. Drive with care while on the highway.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you respond quickly to whatever arises, your routines can run more efficiently. Exchange views with partners who can bring you success.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) The planets are favourable for improving home conditions today so get busy at such. Extend invitations to charming persons.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good day to run around and handle matters for which you have had little time lately or look into new interests.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Useful data is yours which can help you to handle material affairs much better today, and you can soon have added income.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

THE Daily Crossword by Lee G. Barrow

ACROSS

- French or Melba
- Cabbage variety
- French friar
- French farewell
- Chills and fever
- Gloomy
- Old manuscript volume
- Tale
- Unique
- Swap currency in Cologne?
- Wards (off)
- Pierre's sl.
- Threw with a swift movement
- Burrowing rodent
- Open
- Curved molding
- Skin condition
- Exist
- Omens
- Always, to poets
- Debussy opus
- Inventor
- Whitney
- Exact retribution
- Allot
- Street or seed
- Demean
- Certain gait
- Employer
- Betel palm
- Correctly duplicate?
- Capri cash
- Study hard
- Singer
- Fitzgerald and namesakes
- Served a winner
- Alghazian's neighbor
- Plants of a region
- Took the bus
- Flex
- Tall structure

DOWN

- Diplomat's forte
- Scent
- Verdi opus
- Sowers
- Formal wear
- Eskimo canoe
- Culture medium
- Lies in wait
- Velvet finish?
- Concurs
- Kleenex and Band-Aid
- Poet
- Watches carefully
- Check or first follower
- Ultimate
- Droning sound
- Grandma
- Nimble
- Licensed
- Pacific Island
- Texas town
- Dog medic
- Simple
- Game room
- Deprived (of)
- Twenty
- Turn over
- Russian ruler
- Apron kin
- even keel
- Shine
- Lagomorph
- Russian ruler
- Apron kin

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

COMB	TIMEO	OPEN
ACES	AGORA	PITA
STRAW	BERRY	TSAR
KEG	ROTTED	ITTY
STEREO	DRAMA	
ONSET	ENACTS	
SECTS	TITAN	HIT
ACHE	STRUM	PINA
WHO	SHEEN	SOOTY
SOCCER	DEBAR	
ORRIS	ATTUNE	
MIRE	MEASLY	NIX
ERAS	PEPPER	MINT
MATT	ENTER	STER
ONES	ROSES	SERA

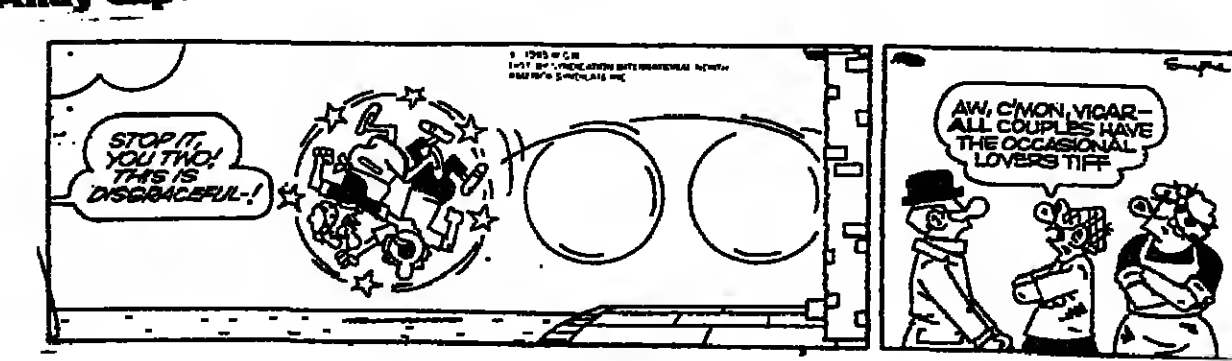
THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen



Peanuts



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Mutt'n'Jeff



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U.S. fund investors to visit Middle East next month

By Saleman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Potential investors in a U.S. government-backed fund to finance private joint ventures in the Middle East will visit the region next month, a senior U.S. official said Friday.

Ruth Harkin, president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), said the \$250 million Middle East North Africa Growth Fund should be running by the start of 1996.

"Significant for the development of this region's economy will be the \$250 million Middle East North Africa Growth Fund... this fund is currently raising capital and should be ready to begin making investments by the start of next year," she told Reuters in an interview in Amman.

Ms. Harkin said potential fund investors would come to the region in early December to match up potential local companies looking for U.S. equity partners.

A \$75 million fund for Israel, already capitalised, was looking at the communications, retailing and consumer sectors.

OPIC, a U.S. government agency, provides medium and long term financing to U.S. firms doing business in emerging markets and political risk insurance.

The 10-year OPIC-guaranteed fund, to be raised primarily by U.S. investors, would make direct investments in private sector projects in Morocco, Tunisia,

Egypt, Jordan, Palestinian self-rule areas and Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Ms. Harkin said she hoped progress in Middle East peace would help raise OPIC's portfolio in the area — now a small portion of its global \$73 billion investments.

She said several projects would be announced in the next few months, mostly an outcome of the first OPIC-led investment mission last July to the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Palestinian self-rule Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

Ms. Harkin cited a \$2 million loan application by Culligan International to bottle natural spring water near Jericho, and a \$2 million loan and \$3 million political risk insurance to U.S. Bucheit International to build a plant to manufacture pre-cast concrete for construction in Gaza.

The biggest project so far was the first private power plant in Morocco, in which OPIC signed a protocol for \$200 million in political risk insurance with CMS Energy Corporation. Talks are ongoing on an OPIC loan in the over \$1 billion project.

Ms. Harkin said OPIC would easily meet a U.S. pledge to channel \$125 million in investments to Palestinians within four years.

"American investors were delighted and surprised by the entrepreneurial and can-do attitude among the Palestinians... this is what will allow us to make investments there," she said.

Japan finance ministry under fire over Daiwa

TOKYO (R) — Japan's powerful finance ministry came under fire at home and abroad Saturday for its handling of the Daiwa Bank scandal.

Newspaper editorials slammed the ministry, once regarded as almost infallible and beyond reproach, for its part in a scandal that has led to U.S. authorities ordering Japan's 10th largest bank to shut its doors in the United States.

Speculation that a merger with another Japanese bank was the only way out of the morass for Daiwa grew with a newspaper report that it had reached "basic agreement" with Sumitomo Bank to be taken over, possibly by next October.

The Asahi Shimbun said parliament should take up finance ministry handling of the affair while a report from Washington said U.S. authorities were worried about "loose disclosure and surveillance procedures" in Japan's banking system.

On Thursday, the U.S. government announced a 24-count criminal indictment against Daiwa in a move that could lead to fines of more than \$1 billion.

It followed the bank's admission in September that a lone trader at its New York branch racked up \$1.1 billion in losses over 11 years from trading U.S. treasury securities.

The indictment said senior Daiwa managers "directed that those losses be concealed" from U.S. regulators and deceived bank examiners about its trading.

"It is natural that Daiwa Bank should take responsibility for the wrongdoing. But heavy responsibility rests on the finance ministry for creating such a bank," the economic daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun said in an editorial.

The case has turned into a new target for critics who believe Japan's economy suffers from overzealous protection.

The punitive steps (taken by U.S. authorities) also reflect anger by world financial circles over Japan's opaque financial system," the Asahi Shimbun said. "The finance ministry's responsibility is grave."

The Yomiuri Shimbun quoted sources at the finance ministry and Sumitomo Bank as saying the two banks have started preparations for a merger.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SAMSATARI				
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 04/11/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	24110	243.750	241.000	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	43525	196689	4.500	4.500
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	13250	50655	4.400	4.500
BANK OF JORDAN	500	1810	3.620	3.620
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	700	481	2.410	2.410
THE HOUSING BANK	3000	13200	4.400	4.400
JORDAN CREDIT BANK	342	955	2.820	2.800
JORDAN GULF BANK	20755	23667	1.150	1.140
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	340	1330	3.810	3.800
JORDAN TRADING BANK	2750	10040	3.670	3.650
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	117	436	3.730	3.730
SEIT REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	500	2002	3.350	3.320
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	22750	22823	1.020	1.000
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2060	10914	5.240	5.100
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4900	7952	1.630	1.620
BANKS SECTOR	113199	375063	INDEX NUMBER: 190.27	CHANGE: -0.91%
AMMAN SEAS INSURANCE	2500	4625	1.850	1.850
AL-WITR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	6653	26607	4.060	4.000
INSURANCE SECTOR	9153	31232	INDEX NUMBER: 129.61	CHANGE: -0.11%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10710	17564	1.650	1.640
JORDAN TOWNS & TOURISM	278	2423	8.400	8.750
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1369	3761	2.030	2.000
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1050	1103	1.050	1.050
ARAB INTR. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	1650	5447	3.320	3.320
SARCA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	9400	12240	1.310	1.300
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	3500	2850	1.100	1.100
SERVICES SECTOR	28457	46437	INDEX NUMBER: 127.67	CHANGE: -0.17%
ATTACHED COMST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	750	900	1.250	1.200
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	2216	11785	3.690	3.660
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	365	1098	3.000	3.010
THE ARAB POTASH	350	1736	5.050	5.130
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	218	3174	9.450	9.400
THE JORDAN WOODSTOCK MILLS	500	3800	7.550	7.600
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	1354	6416	4.790	4.730
JORDAN DAIRY	1000	2520	2.520	2.520
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	324	721	5.400	5.400
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES INDUSTRIES	3750	47813	13.150	12.750
SPINNING & WEAVING	3600	6460	1.700	1.700
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	324	2307	7.200	7.120
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	1422	7131	5.100	5.100
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	27700	18836	680	680
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	2500	3525	1.430	1.410
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	3200	3361	1.050	1.050
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	230	455	1.850	1.820
JORDAN CEMENT-CEMENTALS	850	1097	1.310	1.250
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1950	3778	1.980	1.940
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	100	313	3.140	3.130
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2100	4052	1.960	1.920
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	750	1180	1.580	1.530
INTERNATIONAL TOWARDS & CIGARETTES	11446	16489	1.460	1.430
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRIES	1950	3908	2.040	2.000
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	70346	153759	INDEX NUMBER: 124.17	CHANGE: -0.46%
GRAND TOTAL	223155	606491	INDEX NUMBER: 157.66	CHANGE: -0.70%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		183063		
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		240318		

Study highlights role of agro-industry in Kingdom

British company looks for joint venture in textile industry

☆ A STUDY presented to the Amman economic summit indicated that agro-industries are employing about 43 per cent of the agricultural workforce in Jordan. The study emphasised that there are more than 200 establishments in this field that can export its products to outside markets. The study pointed out that the farming and agro-industry sector account for 22 per cent of the gross domestic product and that the sector's exports in 1994 amounted to JD 158 million (Al Aswaq).

☆ BRITAIN'S MARKS and Spencer Company is willing to set up joint ventures in the textile industries with the countries of the region, especially Jordan, according to Andrew Stone, a senior official at the company (Al Aswaq).

Jordanian firm sells patent for \$25 million

☆ SYSTIMA SCIENTIFIC Research (SSR), has agreed to allow the Florida-based Green Star International to use a Jordanian compound discovered recently to produce an organic oil used for the treatment of migraine headaches. According to Khamis Bitar, manager of the Jordanian company, SSR would annually provide Green Star with 20,000 of thyme, the main ingredient of Galinus 7 which relaxes the nerves in the neck area and leads to killing the pain caused by migraines. SSR will get \$25 million for giving the patent of the compound to the U.S. firm and will also get five per cent of the sales for the next 15 years. Mr. Bitar said the agreement with Green Star was conditional on planting 20,000 dunums of thyme in Jordan (Al Aswaq).

Court orders Chalabi, Hussein to pay JD 14.66m

☆ AMMAN'S FIRST Instance Court has ordered that Ahmad Al Chalabi and Mazen Hamed Hussein pay a total of JD 15,663,750 to Petra Bank (under liquidation) in compensation for damages resulting from embezzling the bank's funds. Mr. Chalabi was the board chairman and general manager of Petra Bank until Aug. 2, 1989 when the board was dissolved by a decision from the Economic Security Committee. Mr. Hussein was the manager of the engineering department and a member of the board of directors of Al Rimal Company through which the funds were channelled without obtaining the approval of the Central Bank (Al Ra'i).

Aluminium company agrees voluntary liquidation

☆ THE GENERAL assembly of the Jordanian National Company for Aluminium Sheets decided to voluntarily liquidate the company, only five months after it was established. The board chairman said many variables have weighed on the decision to fold the company such as the higher cost of inputs and of machinery as well as the possible effects on the industry when Jordan enters the GATT club in the future. He pointed out that the cost of aluminium increased from \$2,000 per tonne to \$3,500 per tonne in the past months, shattering all figures of the feasibility study on which the project was based. He indicated that the board of directors had examined all the changes over more than three months and had to recommend dissolving the company to protect all the funds of the shareholders. The company, registered in February 1995, had a JD 1.4 million capital (Al Aswaq).

Bank to sell assets

☆ THE AMMAN Bank of Investment will be selling some assets over the coming three years within a plan to boost profit starting next year. Among the assets to be sold are the Yamaniyah market in downtown Amman and the six-dunum land opposite Al Aswaq newspaper. The Yamaniyah market has been under construction for the past two years and the sale of the shops in the market are expected to earn the bank about JD 2.5 million. The sale of the land, which may be sold to a company that plans to build a hotel and a commercial market, could bring JD 1.5 million. The bank will also be selling 10 million shares of its equity in Al Mafrq Food Industries company which has a total capital of JD 12 million (shares). Of the 10 million shares, six million are to be sold next year. Furthermore, the bank plans to transfer the National Company for Metal Industries from a JD 2 million private shareholding company into a JD 3 million public shareholding company (Al Aswaq).

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Financial Markets		
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank		
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Date: 4/11/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7059	0.7106
Swiss Franc	1.1176	1.1232
Deutsche Mark	0.4994	0.5019
Swiss Franc	0.6205	0.6234
French Franc	0.1465	0.1482
Japanese Yen	0.6804	0.6838
Dutch Guilder	0.4458	0.4488
Swedish Krona	0.0000	0.0000
Italian Lira	0.0044	0.0046
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000
Other Currencies		
Date: 4/11/1995		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Libanese Lira	1.8820	1.8780
Lebanese Lira	0.043565	0.043575
Saudi Riyal	0.1885	0.1898
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.3970	1.3970
Qatari Riyal	0.1932	0.1945
Syrian Pound	0.2160	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8320	1.8410
Yemeni Dinar	0.1982	0.1933
Yemeni Dinar	0.1885	0.1885
Yemeni Dinar	1.9215	1.5890

Toyota team suspended from World Championship

PARIS (AP) — In a major auto racing scandal, Toyota's rally team was suspended from international competition for a year Friday for using illegal turbochargers on two of its cars.

The International Automobile Federation action knocks the Toyota-Castrol team — including defending world champion Didier Auriol of France — out of this year's World Championship.

FIA President Max Mosley said the power-boosting turbocharger modifications were so cleverly designed they almost slipped by technical inspectors.

The modifications were found on two Toyota-Castrol team cars driven in last week's Catalunya Rally in Lloret de Mar, Spain.

"It's the most ingenious and sophisticated device of its kind that I've ever seen in 30 years in motorsports," Mosley told reporters after meeting with the team.

Three-time world champion Toyota did not immediately respond to the sanctions, which shut its team out of the current world Championship and out of international competition for a year beginning Friday.

The sanctions affect only the Toyota-Castrol team as an entity, not the drivers themselves or the Japanese auto giant. The team, which was disqualified after the changes were discovered, can appeal.

Mosley said the Toyota-Castrol team management claimed it didn't know about the illegal modifications. But FIA could not accept that as a defence because "it's an

absolute principle of motorsports that you're responsible for your team," Mosley said.

Toyota-Castrol fired its technical chief, Dieter Bullig, after the illegal modifications came to light last week at the Spanish rally, where the team later was disqualified.

The move means the team's points in this year's rally championship disappear, but the standings won't be altered to move other racers up, Mosley said.

Neither reigning champion Didier Auriol of France nor teammates Armin Schwarz of Germany and four-time world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland were in contention for this year's championship. It will be decided between Spain's Carlos Sainz and Britain's Colin McRae in the British Rally Championship Nov. 19-22.

"It's sad for them, but it's the only way," Mosley said. "For practical purposes, they didn't take part in the 1995 World Championship."

Mosley said the turbochargers on their Toyota Celicas were modified so that a main intake hose could be opened slightly to allow 25 per cent more air to reach the engine.

When closed, he said, the opening retracted to make it virtually undetectable.

The enhancement didn't mean that the drivers had 25 per cent more power, but "they certainly had more power than they would legally," Mosley said.

FIA officials said there was no indication that other racing teams were souping up their cars in such a manner.

Tomba to boycott opening race

ASSAGO, Italy (R) — Alberto Tomba said on Friday he would miss the opening race of the Alpine skiing season in Tignes, France on November 12 in protest at proposed rule changes to the World Cup series.

Tomba also threatened to compete only in the first legs of other World Cup races this season.

"I think that if the piste is really disastrous, I will race the first leg, wave and go home," Italy's overall World Cup champion said at a skiing exhibition near Milan when asked about proposed starting order rule changes.

"What can we do to protest? Do like me and don't go to Tignes," said the triple Olympic champion, who had already said he was unlikely to go to the French resort because the event, a giant slalom, is set to be run on a glacier.

Italian Ski Federation President Carlo Valentini said this week that Tomba would be concentrating more on the postponed World Championships to be held in Spain's Sierra Nevada.

The International Ski Federation (FIS) council is due to meet in Oberhofen, Switzerland, at the weekend to discuss changes to race rules.

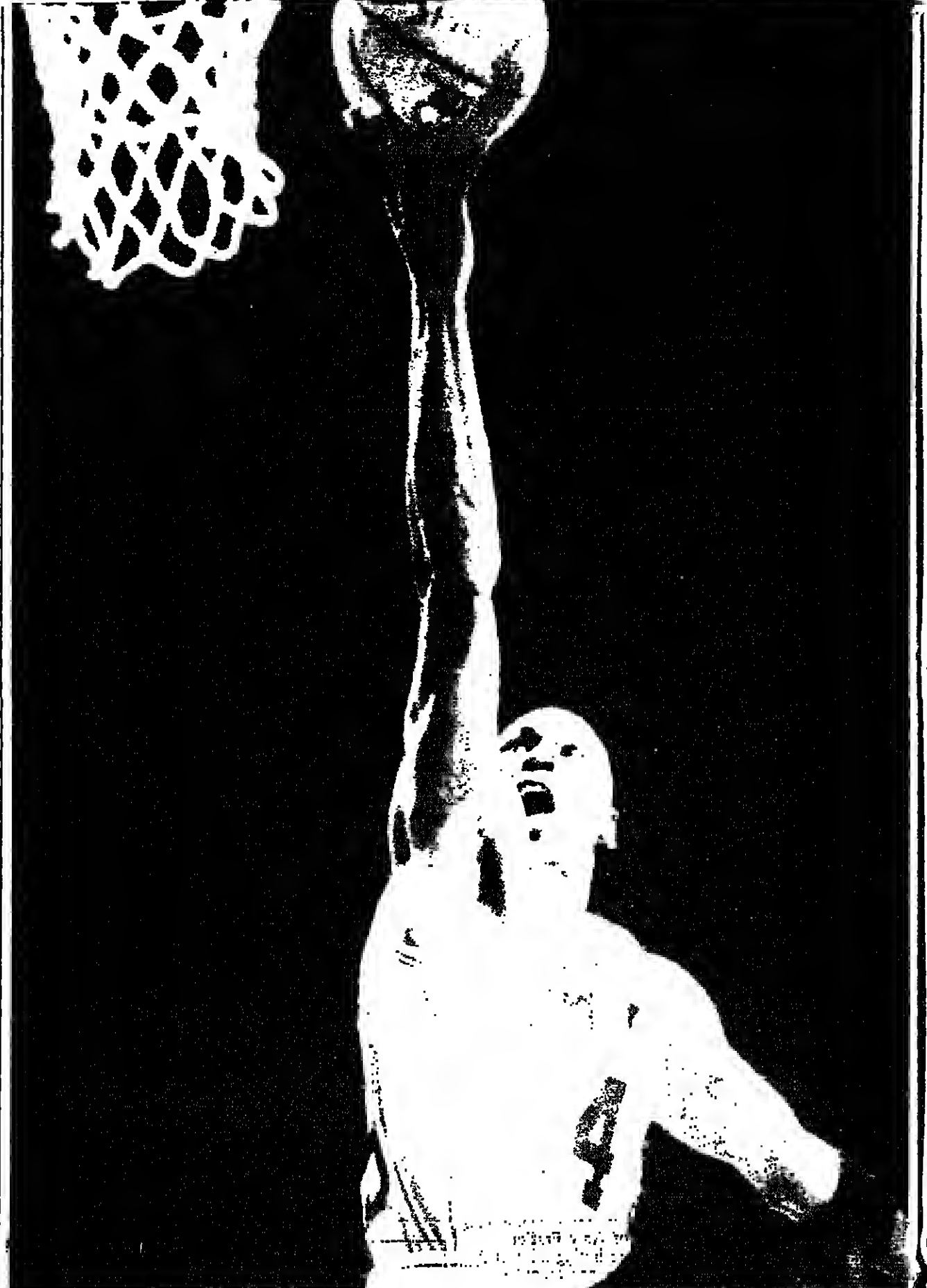
The FIS has already proposed that the second legs of races should be run with the top 30 from the first leg in reverse order rather than the top 15 as at present.

They argue that this will make races more exciting and end a situation where the race winner is declared before the entire field has completed the event.

Under the proposed changes, race juries will have to specify one hour before the start of the first leg whether to run the second in reverse 15 or 30 format. This allows the jury to take into account poor snow conditions on the piste.

Many skiers have criticised the plans, saying the pistes will be destroyed before the top racers appear.

"It's a dangerous decision because in 95 per cent of cases the piste is already destroyed after just a few skiers going down," said Slovenia's Jure Kosir.



Chicago Bulls star Michael Jordan goes up for a shot (file photo)

Jordan sparks Bulls to victory in opener

CHICAGO (AFP) — Michael Jordan had not played in a season opener for the Chicago Bulls since 1992. But he showed everyone in the National Basketball Association that he still has what it takes to win.

Jordan scored 42 points, 19 of them in the third quarter, and the Bulls ripped Charlotte 105-91 here Friday in their season opener.

A record 14 NBA games Friday included victories by Toronto and Vancouver in their first-ever games and picketing by referees who remain out of work while the league uses substitutes from colleges.

But the night belonged to Jordan, who averaged 26.9 points in 17 regular-season games last season after coming out of retirement. Jordan sank 15-of-29 shots from the field, including 3-of-7 from three-point range, and made 7-of-9 free throws. He sparked the Bulls to a 40-18 scoring edge in the third quarter.

"I feel good, I'm not old, I feel confident in my skills," Jordan said. "I guess I'll be scrutinized every night. This is just one game, but I'm sure I'll be judged every game. I'll just take that as a personal challenge."

Toni Kukoc added 15 points, nine rebounds and six assists for Chicago, while Scottie Pippen aggravated a groin injury and departed

early in the first quarter. Dennis Rodman pulled down a game-best 11 rebounds in his debut for Chicago and also picked up a technical foul.

Larry Johnson scored 19 points to lead Charlotte, which traded Alonzo Mourning to Miami earlier Friday. The heat were the only NBA club not playing on opening night in the 29-team league.

"We weren't able to pick it up tonight," Hornets coach Allen Bristow said. "We just were not competitive. The next two or three weeks we have to find our identity. Tonight, though, Chicago played better than U.S., especially in the second half. They deserve the credit."

Referees picketed outside the arena here. Officials and the league rejected offers in the past two days and remain far apart on salary demands.

"We're not looking to compromise," veteran referee Mike Mathis said. "The league has not even begun to seriously negotiate with us yet."

Reigning NBA champion Houston opened with a 110-92 home triumph over Golden State. The Rockets celebrated their second title as players received gold commemorative rings.

"It was a fantastic, wonderful, emotional night," Houston's Clyde Drexler said. "I'm glad we were still able to play well even if we

were jittery. When you see that banner go up, you know it's a part of history."

Hakeem Olajuwon, whose Islamic faith forbids wearing gold, had a special platinum ring made to honour the title. He scored 16 points Friday, as did Drexler and Mario Elie, while Sam Cassell led the Rockets with 23 points.

"I was very happy with my performance," said Olajuwon. "I know things will get better as I get in better shape." The team Houston swept in the NBA final also opened with a victory, despite the absence of Shaquille O'Neal with a broken thumb. Anfernee Hardaway scored 28 points in Orlando's 99-88 victory over Cleveland.

At Toronto, Alvin Robertson scored 30 points to spark the Raptors past New Jersey 94-79. Acie Earl added 16 for the league newcomers.

Vancouver made a triumphant debut as well, spoiling the first game in Portland's new arena with a 92-80 victory over the Trail Blazers. Benoit Benjamin scored 29 points to lead the Grizzlies.

Indiana's Reggie Miller scored 19 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter and the Pacers won 111-106 at Atlanta. Miller made 14-of-15 free throws and 7-of-12 three-point shots.

"Reggie made some big, big shots," Indiana coach Larry Brown said. "Miller has got to go to the goal like he did

tonight and get to the free throw line."

Don Nelson won his debut as New York's coach, with Hubert Davis scoring 21 points and Derek Harper adding 20 in a 106-100 triumph over Detroit. Grant long scored 29 for the Pistons in a losing cause.

Milwaukee spoiled Boston's first game in their new arena with a 101-100 triumph. Vin Baker scored 30 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. Glenn Robinson added 24 points and Todd Day contributed 22 for the Bucks.

Rick Fox led the Celtics with 19 points. Dino Radja added 18 points, grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots for Boston, which missed on a winning shot in the final seconds.

Jason Kidd and Jamal Mashburn each scored 27 to lead Dallas past San Antonio 103-97 while rookie Jerrey Stackhouse made 11-of-18 shots to finish with 27 points and lead Philadelphia past Washington 105-103.

Karl Malone scored 26 points and Jeff Hearn added 19 as Utah beat Seattle 112-94. Germany's Detlef Schrempf led Seattle with 24 points.

In other openers, the Los Angeles Clippers beat Phoenix 112-106, the Los Angeles Lakers edged Denver 98-96 and Sacramento beat Minnesota 95-86.

Tyson again focal point of women's rights protesters

LAS VEGAS (AFP) — A broken thumb has Mike Tyson's career on hold for now. But when the former world champion is ready to fight again, women's rights activist Anne Golonka will be ready, too.

Tyson's scheduled Saturday fight with Buster Mathis Jr., his second comeback bout since he served three years in prison for rape, was postponed abruptly on Tuesday when Tyson aggravated an injury he suffered in training three weeks earlier.

Doctors predicted he could be back in action in four to six weeks, and when he does fight again, Golonka, president of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the (National Organization for Women), will organize another demonstration outside the MGM Grand Garden arena protesting violence against women and urging Tyson to donate money to the cause.

His first comeback fight on August 19, against unknown and under-qualified Peter McNeeley, grossed a U.S. record \$63 million dollars from 1.52 pay-per-view sales. Many of those viewers turned in just out of curiosity. And fight fans were unimpressed with the 89-second bout, which ended when McNeeley's manager stepped into the ring in the second round, thereby disqualifying his fighter.

Golonka organized a demonstration outside the MGM that night, and she urged Tyson to use one million dollars of his \$25 million purse to set up a foundation to combat violence against women.

So far, she has had no response to that suggestion, though she continues to press the proposal through Tyson's promoter, Don King.

Golonka said the demonstrations were not aimed solely at Tyson, but were planned to draw attention to the fact that prominent men who victimize women often escape penalties.

She cited the Navy Tailhook convention scandal, and the case of Robert Packwood, who resigned from the U.S. Senate when it became clear he was about to be ousted for sexually harassing about a dozen women. By resigning, Packwood made certain he would receive his entire Senate pension.

Golonka said she sensed a slight shift in public opinion, however, in the wake of football legend OJ Simpson's acquittal on charges of murdering his ex-wife.

Despite the not-guilty verdicts, the trial revealed Simpson as a wife-batterer, and his efforts to rehabilitate his public image have so far failed.

"People are beginning to realize that they don't necessarily have to welcome these people back into society," Golonka said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Clippers drop Chinese player

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Ma Jin, hoping to be the first Chinese player in a regular-season National Basketball Association game, will have to wait longer for the opportunity. The Los Angeles Clippers made Ma their final roster cut entering Friday's opening of the season. The club also put Pooh Richardson on injured reserve to reach the maximum 12-man roster. Ma had played at the University of Utah and was given a strong chance to make the Clippers. He played in several pre-season exhibitions but was edged for the final reserve berth. Ma said he was shocked and surprised at being cut, but added he has not given up on reaching the NBA. He remains a free agent and club be signed by any club should injuries arise.

5 feared dead in Transatlantic race

TOULON, France (AFP) — Five sailors were feared drowned on Friday after the Italian yacht 'Parsifal' sank on the San Remo-Casablanca stage of the Tradeswind Trans Atlantic Race. French lifeboat service CROSSMED added four others had been rescued and taken to the Spanish island of Minorca. The 'Parsifal', a 16-metre yacht with a crew of nine, sent out distress signals in 40 knot winds late on Thursday, 60 miles north east of Minorca. Rescue services searched through Friday for other survivors and were due to restart the search on Saturday. The cause of the accident was not revealed.

Gascoigne dumped by fiancée

LONDON (AFP) — England and Rangers star Paul Gascoigne's fiancée of five weeks has dumped him after he chatted to a blonde model in a restaurant, it was reported here on Friday. Sheryl Kyle, who is expecting the Rangers star's baby, was claimed to have said she was adamant the turbulent relationship was over for good. But Gascoigne was reported as saying he and 25-year-old model Sarah Heaney were just friends. The bust-up allegedly happened after the 28-year-old England international chatted to Sarah at Sir Terence Conran's trendy London restaurant Quaglinos, where he and Sheryl were dining. A report in The Sun newspaper said the mother-of-two accused Gascoigne of having an affair and stormed out.

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♦ 8 7 4 3			
♣ Q 9 7 4 2			
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♦ K 10 8 5 3			
♣ A 10 9 7 3			
SOUTH			
♠ A K J 10 9 7 3			
♥ Q 8 4			
♦ J 8			
♣ Void			
The bidding:			
EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
10	4	DM	Pass
Opening lead: Two of O			
The good book tells us that everything must be done in its time. South got the timing wrong on this hand and paid the price.			
After East's one-heart opening bid, four spades was the right evaluation of the South hand. Not even the ace and king of diamonds with North would make six spades a good contract, because declarer would still have to handle the third and fourth hearts as well as avoid a possible trump loser.			
West led the two of hearts and the long lead to the ace. Anxious to ruff losing hearts, declarer tried to cash the queen of hearts. West ruffed and ended with a trump. In the fullness of time declarer could ruff one of the heart losers, but ended up having to surrender two diamond tricks and a heart in addition to the ruff already scored by the defense — down one.			
A more careful analysis of the position would have brought declarer to the realization that the time to lose a heart trick was immediately. Considering the auction, West's two of hearts was surely a singleton, so continuing with the queen of hearts courted disaster. Consider what would have happened if, at trick two, declarer had returned a low heart.			
East wins the trick and can do no better than return a trump. Even that does not harm declarer. The spade is won in hand and the remaining low heart is ruffed on the table with the queen. Declarer can return to hand with a club ruff to draw trumps, and lose only two diamond tricks and one heart.			
Note the importance of surrendering a heart early, before the defenders can start leading trumps.			

Panathinaikos fined \$35,000

MUNICH (R) — Greek basketball club Panathinaikos has been fined 50,000 marks (\$35,000) after fans threw coins on to the court injuring a coach.

If there is repeat of the incident, they have been told the fine will be doubled and they may have to play their three following games — and possibly more — behind closed doors.

The incident happened at last week's European Champion Clubs match after Panathinaikos beat champions Real Madrid 54-52 in front of a fervent crowd at the 18,000-seat Olympic stadium.

The international federation FIBA said fans "threw coins onto the court hitting the (Real Madrid) assistant coach and causing injury."

Basketball is a passion among Greek fans and there has been a history of trouble over the years.

Panathinaikos were beaten 63-57 away to Barcelona on Thursday. Their next European Championship home game is against Cibona Zagreb on Nov. 22.

Hornets trade Alonzo Mourning to Miami Heat

CHICAGO (R) — The Charlotte Hornets traded disgruntled centre Alonzo Mourning to the Miami Heat Friday, hours ahead of their season-opener in Chicago.

The Hornets sent Mourning, guard Pete Myers and centre Leron Ellis to Miami for high-scoring swingman Glen Rice, centre Matt Geiger, guard Khalid Reeves and a first-round draft choice in 1996.

According to Miami news reports, the trade was completed when Mourning agreed to a four-year, \$44 million contract extension with the Heat.

Mourning is expected to

make his debut for the Heat — and their new coach and general manager Pat Riley — in Miami's season opener Saturday night against Cleveland.

"I know he (Riley) wanted a post player, so that's why he went after me and I'm going to try to fulfil that role," said Mourning.

The Hornets made the deal after they reached a contract impasse with Mourning. The Charlotte Observer reported that the Hornets were unwilling to meet Mourning's demand of \$13 million per season over four seasons, along with escape clauses.

The Observer said Charlotte offered \$10 million per season over seven years.

"The prospects of this trade are very exciting to us," said Hornets vice president of basketball operations Bob Bass.

"Glen Rice is an all-star calibre player and we are also receiving a first-round pick in next year's draft. Also, with our injuries, Khalid Reeves will be able to step right in and stabilise our point guard position."

Mourning, a two-time all-star, led the Hornets in points (21.3) and rebounds (9.9) last season and was fifth in the league in blocks with 2.9 per game.

He was one of four players in the league to lead their team in four statistical categories.

The second overall pick in the 1992 draft out of Georgetown, Mourning averaged 21.3 points per game in his three seasons and has blocked 684 shots, the most in Charlotte history.

Mourning scored 30 or more points 30 times last season.

Rice, who is entering his sixth year in the NBA, was the fourth overall pick in 1989 out of Michigan.

Rice was the Heat's most valuable player last season after averaging 22.3 points and posting his best shooting

numbers at 47.5 per cent from the floor, including 41.0 from 3-point range.

He is Miami's all-time leader in games played and captured the long distance shootout at last season's all-star weekend. Rice led Michigan to the NCAA title in 1989, where he was named the tournament's MVP after breaking Bill Bradley's record for points in an NCAA tournament with 184.

Myers will be playing with the Bulls last season where he averaged 4.5 points in 71 games. A sixth-round pick in 1986, Myers has also played

with San Antonio, Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey.

Ellis will be reunited with former Syracuse teammate Billy Owens in Miami. A former first-round pick in 1991, Ellis was chosen by the Los Angeles Clippers and played in just 29 games in his rookie campaign in 1991, before playing with Columbus of the Continental Basketball Association and Hyundai Deio of the Italian League in 1992-93.

Ellis averaged 4.4 points for the Hornets in the 1993-94 season and played with Barcelona of the Spanish League last year. Ellis will

begin the season on the injured list.

Reeves appeared in 67 games as a rookie last season, averaging 9.2 points and 4.3 assists in 21 minutes. Reeves, the 12th choice overall out of Arizona, established franchise rookie records in 3-point shooting and also recorded the NBA's fourth-best assist total last season with 288.

Geiger will miss the Heat's season-opener after he was fined \$10,000 and suspended one game after a flagrant foul against Orlando Magic centre Shaquille O'Neal. Geiger posted career-highs in games (74), points (8.3) and rebounds (5.6) last season.

Kingdom's Premier League teams return to action

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Following a five-week break, the Kingdom's top soccer teams return to action Sunday with the kickoff of the Premier League's seventh week.

Al Hussein, who have yet to win the prestigious trophy, are now in the lead with 12 points, followed by Kufroum trailing closely with 11 points.

Al Wihdat are in a disappointing fifth place while former champions Al Faisali are seventh.

While the competition was put on hold pending the completion of the Olympic team's qualifying matches, the closing of Amman Stadium because of the MENA summit and the lack of training grounds made the one month break disadvantageous for most teams.

According to Jordan Soccer Federation spokesman Bassam Haroun the first

leg of the competition will now be completed by the end of the month while the second leg is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

A total of 97 goals were scored in the six weeks of the competition with Al Hussein scoring 17.

The top scorer of the league is Al Hussein's Abdullah Shiyah with 6 goals followed by Al Jalil's Ibrahim Abdulhadi and Baqaa's Riyad Diques with 4

goals each. Five players are in third place with three goals each: Al Ramtha's Mouaffaq Abu Hdeib, Khaled Khataibeh and Mazen Anbar of Al Hussein, and Ahmad Rashed and Murad Hassan from Al Jazireh.

Schedule of seventh week
Sun 5/11 Ramtha vs. Russeifa
Hussein vs. Qadissieh
Mon 6/11 Wihdat vs. Sahab
Faisali vs. Jalil
Tue 7/11 Jazireh vs. Ahli
Kufroum vs. Baqaa

STANDINGS BEFORE 7TH WEEK

Team	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Hussein	4	2	—	17	3	14
Kufroum	3	3	—	6	3	12
Ramtha	3	2	1	7	3	11
Qadissieh	3	2	1	10	7	11
Wihdat	3	1	2	9	4	10
Jazireh	3	—	3	12	10	9
Faisali	2	3	1	5	3	9
Ahli	1	4	1	6	5	7
Baqaa	2	1	3	9	9	7
Sahab	—	4	2	5	10	4
Jalil	1	—	5	6	16	3
Russeifa	—	—	6	4	23	—

FIFA: S. Korea boasts high-quality facilities

SEOUL (R) — Soccer's World governing body FIFA said on Friday it had not found "a weak point" in South Korea's ability to host the first World Cup in Asia.

Winding up FIFA's four-day trip to South Korea to assess the country's readiness to host the 2002 tournament, team leader Horst Schmidt said his delegation was impressed with soccer facilities in the country.

"I cannot say that the facilities you have now are perfect for a World Cup," Schmidt told a news conference. "But we need a certain feeling what football means in this country and we are very happy to tell you that we've got this feeling," he said.

He said the Chamsil stadium in Seoul, used during the 1988 Summer Olympics, was "very impressive and appeared ready to stage World Cup final match tomorrow."

When asked if he foresaw any problems in South Korea hosting the World Cup, Schmidt said: "I didn't find a weak point."

Hank Steinbrecher, another of the FIFA inspectors, said South Korea's facilities, hotels and training fields were of an extremely high quality.

South Korea and Japan are the only candidates bidding to host the first World Cup of the 21st century. The FIFA team heads for Japan on Saturday for similar assessment there.

Chung Mong-Joon, president of the Korea Football Association, said later he was very optimistic about South Korea being chosen to host the World Cup.

"The inspectors were quite satisfied with the current situation of our soccer-related facilities," he said.

But Chung said he was worried about a move inside FIFA in which some members close to FIFA president Joao Havelange were supporting Japan's bid.

Chung said if selected to host the finals, South Korea would ask FIFA to allow some of the games to be held in North Korea to ease tension in the Korean peninsula.

"We are quite hopeful for that," he said.

The KFA said that regardless of FIFA's decision on the host country for the 2002 finals, South Korea would build 11 new stadia, including seven exclusively for soccer, and that five cities were planning to renovate their main stadium.

Maleeva advances in Oakland event

OAKLAND (R) — Veteran Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, the second seed at the Bank of the West Classic, out-thought 15-year-old sensation Venus Williams to win their quarter-final round 6-2, 6-3 on Friday.

"I'm the more experienced player, I'm supposed to think, I did think and I thought the right things," said Maleeva, who committed only seven unforced errors to her opponent's 27.

"She's young and doesn't have to think," Maleeva added. "She just goes out there and hits the ball as hard as she can."

A jittery Williams lost the first 15 points of the match and the first 10 points on her powerful serve. She went into a 4-0 hole and never showed any of the fire that she displayed in her second-round upset of Amy Frazier.

"I was hitting a lot of flat balls, making a lot of technical errors," Williams said. "She played really well, she didn't hit too many balls right at me."

Maleeva will play fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez, who advanced to the semifinals with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-1 victory over hard-hitting fellow American Linda Wild.

Despite nearly retiring with a lower back injury, third seed Lindsay Davenport also advanced to the semifinals with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over seventh-seeded Czech Helena Sukova.

Davenport's semifinal opponent will be fleet-footed Ai Sugiyama of Japan, who upset American Zina Garrison-Jackson 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

Both players were firing services at more than 200 kilometres an hour (124 mph). Krajicek once won a game with four aces. A long exchange was anything more than five shots across the net. Krajicek ended with 19 aces and Becker 15.

Krajicek won the first set and twice went up a break in the second set but each time Becker clawed his way back to win the tiebreaker.

Then Becker made a decisive move in the ninth game making key service returns that forced Krajicek errors to put Becker up, 5-4 and serving.

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With his victory over Vacek, Ferreira stayed in contention for a berth in the ATP finals Nov. 14-19 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Becker, Sampras in Paris semifinals

PARIS (AP) — Three-time Paris Open champion Boris Becker rallied to get past Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 in a see-saw quarterfinal of the \$2.25 million tournament.

Top-seeded Pete Sampras advanced to the semifinals by defeating unseeded Jakob Hasek of Switzerland, 6-2, 6-3.

In other quarterfinals, Jim Courier defeated Michael Chang, 6-2, 7-6 (7-5) and Wayne Ferreira of South Africa, seeded ninth, seeded just an hour to eliminate Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-4.

With his victory, Becker becomes the fifth player to qualify for the ATP finals later in November.

The third-seeded Becker was just a bit off in his game in the first set against Krajicek and showed his frustration at times — slamming his racket and screaming into a towel on changeovers.

"I thought I was pretty pretty badly in the first set," Becker said. "I tried very hard and somehow I managed."

As Becker started controlling his frustration, he got into the match more.

"He had me down a set and had me twice a break up in the second set and he has one of the best serves in the games... but I fought very hard," Becker said.

Both players were firing services at more than 200 kilometres an hour (124 mph). Krajicek once won a game with four aces. A long exchange was anything more than five shots across the net. Krajicek ended with 19 aces and Becker 15.

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معرض عمان الدولي - معرض الحماة

مفتوح من 11 صباحاً وحتى 8 مساءً

U.S. wants Iraq to accept U.N. oil sales offer

KUWAIT CITY (Agencies)

— U.S. envoy Robert Pelletreau urged Iraq on Saturday to accept a U.N. offer allowing it to sell limited quantities of oil to raise money for food and medicines.

"We call on [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein to accept Resolution 986 and urge him to authorise the import of food and other humanitarian goods for the Iraqi people, in line with this U.N. Security Council resolution," Mr. Pelletreau told reporters.

Mr. Pelletreau, the assistant secretary of state for the Near East, said: "The Baghdad government is responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people."

He made the comments during an official visit to Kuwait as part of a tour of Arab Gulf countries.

Iraq rejected U.N. Resolution 986, authorising it to sell oil under strict international supervision to raise money for its humanitarian needs, on the grounds that it violates its sovereignty.

The U.N. imposed an oil and trade embargo on Iraq shortly after August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. A U.S.-led multinational coalition ousted Iraqi occupying troops from the emirate seven months later.

Mr. Pelletreau earlier met with the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and gave him an invitation from U.S. President Bill Clinton to visit the United States.

The U.S. envoy said he assured the emir of "Washington's desire to strengthen its cooperation with Kuwait to guarantee security in the Gulf."

Mr. Pelletreau has already visited Saudi Arabia as part of his Gulf tour and will

travel next to Qatar.

"Kuwait and the United States share a special bond and our relations are excellent," Mr. Pelletreau said in a statement after talks with Sheikh Jaber.

The emir last made an official visit to Washington in September 1991 to thank the United States for spearheading Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation.

Mr. Pelletreau said that in the meeting he reaffirmed U.S. "commitment to maintaining and further strengthening the close cooperation between Kuwait and the United States in order to ensure the security of Kuwait and the Gulf region."

Mr. Pelletreau pointedly hailed the Oct. 29-31 summit in Amman on Arab-Israeli economic cooperation attended by senior officials from some Gulf Arab countries.

He reiterated a call on "governments in the region" to lift completely the Arab economic boycott of Israel, saying it was an unnecessary political barrier to the region's development.

Kuwait sent a low-level delegation to Amman. Like its main Gulf Arab ally Saudi Arabia it says economic cooperation should occur only after Israel makes peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Kuwait has lifted subsidiary boycotts banning contact with third-country companies that trade with Israel but is keeping the primary boycott on direct dealings with the Jewish state until a comprehensive peace is achieved.

Mr. Pelletreau also met Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Saadoun and Foreign Ministry Under-Secretary Suleiman Al Shaheen.

Britain will hunt down militants, Rifkind says

CAIRO (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind vowed on Saturday that his country would hunt down militants living in Britain who were implicated in violence.

Mr. Rifkind, who begins a six-day tour of the Middle East on Monday, told the Egyptian government newspaper Al-Ahram that a small number of extremists were abusing Britain's hospitality.

"I am warning these people and say to them that any individual participating in acts of violence, whether in Britain or elsewhere, will face severe police measures and will be brought before the courts," he said.

Mr. Rifkind, whose remarks were reported in Arabic, told the paper: "If there is evidence indicating that anyone has visibly violated our laws, we will not hesitate to take the appropriate measures against them."

Arab countries, including Egypt, have accused Britain and other European countries of sheltering a number of activists involved in violent campaigns to overthrow their governments.

Last week, the Egyptian government weekly newspaper Rose Al Youssef said sales from 50 fundamentalist newspapers printed in London were financing "terrorist" operations.

The previous day two activists from the Egyptian Islamist group Jihad and the Muslim Brotherhood were arrested and accused of establishing a London liaison centre to plan attacks in Egypt.

French and Algerian newspapers have also reported that an Algerian living in

London helped mastermind a three-month bombing campaign in France.

Mr. Rifkind, however, stressed: "The activities of most Arabs living in Britain contribute to the strengthening of ties between the Arab World and Britain."

The 1991 census showed that 990,000 Muslims were living in Britain.

Mr. Rifkind is due in Cairo next Saturday as part of his Middle East mission, which will also take him to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and the Gaza Strip.

British arms sales

Increasing arms sales helped boost total British exports to Kuwait by 53 per cent to £323 million (\$510 million) in the first eight months of 1995 from the same period of 1994, an British embassy statement in Kuwait said on Saturday.

Britain exported £211 million (\$333 million) worth of goods to the small Gulf state from January to August of 1994.

The rise in the 1995 figures stems from a 6,511 per cent jump in military sales to £119 million (\$188 million) in the first eight months of 1995 from £1.8 million (\$2.8 million) in the same 1994 period, embassy figures show.

The jump in "commodities/transactions not classified elsewhere" — an export category that in Kuwait's case largely reflects defence sales — stems from the start of annual payments for 250 GKN Defence LTD Warrior armoured vehicles worth £600 million (\$950 million).

Paul Getty Foundation began a \$2 million renovation programme led by Italians Paolo and Laura Moro.

Rock specialists, biologists and chemists were enlisted for the job, using electronic microscopes to analyse the threatening salt crystals, the director of the Getty Institute for Conservation, Miguel Angel Corzo, said.

They finished their work in 1992, but Egyptian authorities have since been studying how best to allow tourists into the tomb in the desert mountains of Luxor without damaging the art work.

Only 150 tourists will be allowed in the tomb per day, in groups of 10 for a 10-minute visit each, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA), Abdel



Palestinian schoolgirls holding stones protest in front of burning tyres in the streets of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank on Saturday after a Jewish settler shot dead a Palestinian teenager late Friday (AFP photo)

Iraqi defector to form council

AMMAN (AFP) — Former Iraqi Industry Minister Hussein Kamel plans to form a "national salvation council"

uniting opponents of his father-in-law, President Saddam Hussein, one of his entourage said Saturday.

The council will work for a change of government in Iraq and for the salvation of its people, according to General Kamel's friend, who said the new group would publish a political programme for a democratic and multi-party system.

Iraqi sources said Gen. Kamel, who defected to Jordan on Aug. 8 with his brother and their wives, two of the president's three daughters, would chair the council that would unite opposition forces inside and outside the country.

They said it would include Wafiq Samurrai, the former Iraqi military intelligence chief who defected in 1994, as well as Colonel Saddam Hassan, Gen. Kamel's brother.

Salah Omar Al Ali, Iraq's representative to the United Nations before he defected in 1990, and Meshan Juburi, an influential businessman linked to the opposition, are also expected to be on the council, the sources said.

Gen. Kamel called on Aug. 12 for the overthrow of the Saddam government.

In London, the man who waits to be king of Iraq said Saturday President Saddam's days were numbered and called on opposition leaders to unite around his standard.

"The clock is ticking for Saddam Hussein. The Iraqi people are ready for a change any time from now to a year," Sharif Ali Ben Al Hussein predicted.

Speaking ahead of a con-

ference he organised in London this weekend which he said would include all the major opposition groups, he predicted it was only a matter of time before President Saddam was overthrown.

Sitting in his luxury flat in London's Holland Park district, dressed in a smart navy-blue suit and surrounded by the trappings of wealth, the pretender to the throne appeared a long way from Baghdad.

But he said he was "very confident" of one day being crowned king because tribal chiefs, army officers and others had assured him of "80 to 90 per cent" support among Iraqis for a return of his dynasty.

"After the invasion of Kuwait, a lot of people came to us and asked us to get into the political scene," Sharif Ali added. He boasted of a "large and diversified network of contacts within the country."

He is a cousin of Iraq's last king, Faisal II, who was deposed in a coup in 1958 in which most of the royal family apart from Princess Badia, the monarch's aunt and Sharif Ali's mother, were killed. The dynasty had reigned only 37 years.

Sharif Ali said that, once President Saddam was overthrown, he hoped to return to the country after a referendum.

The monarchy was a "symbol of unity, plurality and basic freedom," he said, the "only system capable of harbouring all political factions."

He added: "There was always a deal of love for the royal family among the ordinary Iraqi citizens."

After King Faisal II cousin

was overthrown, the surviving family moved first to Lebanon where Sharif Ali went to school, before eventually settling in London where he obtained an economics degree.

For a long time he and his relatives remained in the background but, now 39 and married with three children, he claims to have left his job as a financial consultant to turn fully to his Movement for a Constitutional Monarchy, formed in 1993.

He was hazy, however, about its exact role, remaining silent when asked how many members it had, or where it got financial backing from.

His officials biography says he has a "thorough understanding of and pride in Islamic and Arabic culture" and only agreed to be named pretender to the throne "strictly on condition it was a popular and patriotic wish supported by people within Iraq."

However, the London-based opposition umbrella group, the Iraqi National Congress (INC), claimed he did not speak for them nor indeed most Iraqis.

"We have no relation" with him, a spokesman said.

"Obviously a couple of INC supporters will go along (to the conference) to hear what he has to say, but as individuals. No one is going as part of the INC."

On Saturday an Iraqi newspaper launched a thinly veiled attack on Jordan, saying some Arabs were "playing the Israeli game" by seeking to carve the country up into a federation.

"Some Arabs are trying to implement an old Israeli plan

(Continued on page 7)

Rabbani ready to step down — Mestiri

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani is to announce soon that he is ready to resign, U.N. mediator Mahmoud Mestiri said Saturday.

"President Rabbani says he's ready to transfer power," Mr. Mestiri told reporters following a meeting here with the Afghan head of state.

"I think his intention is sincere," the head of the U.N. peace mission said. "He will make the declaration in the coming week."

Mr. Mestiri said agreement is yet to be reached, however, on such critical questions as to whom power would be handed over and when.

A failure to resolve these issues and renewed fighting between Afghanistan's warring factions derailed a previous plan for the president to step down in March.

"We're still talking about the mechanism," Mr. Mestiri said. "He (Rabbani) has his ideas. I have my own ideas."

"I will be back, hopefully

within a week, to talk to him about to whom (power) should be handed over," he said.

The Tajik-dominated Rabbani government has lost control of much of the country during the past year to the Taliban militia, made up mainly of ethnic Pashtuns from the south.

Thousands of Taliban fighters have been besieging the capital Kabul since early October in a bid to topple the nearly three-year-old Rabbani government.

A barrage of rockets fired by Taliban landed at Kabul airport during Mr. Mestiri's visit but did not cause any casualties.

The capital's airport was closed by rocketing last week and Mr. Mestiri's U.N. plane was forced to land at Bagram air base north of here.

The Taliban are opposed by the forces of Ahmad Shah Masoud, Mr. Rabbani's former defence minister and a hero of the anti-Soviet resistance.

A previous bid by the Tali-

bans to capture the capital was repulsed by Mr. Masoud's troops in March.

Mr. Mestiri said an announcement by Mr. Rabbani that he is ready to step down could help achieve a settlement of the conflict between the country's warring factions.

"The Taliban say everything should start with a transfer of power," the former Tunisian foreign minister said. "We (the United Nations) are for an immediate ceasefire."

"I'd like a ceasefire today and declarations later."

"But the Taliban are saying the first step is transfer of power, then a ceasefire," he said. "The number one problem in Afghanistan is transfer of power. All parties want a transfer of power."

Mr. Mestiri said he planned to discuss the latest developments with Uzbek militia leader General Abdul Rashid Dostum before returning to Kabul in the middle of next week.

guard," he said.

The tomb had been robbed of Nefertari's mummy long before its discovery. The queen's sandals and part of the sarcophagus, discovered by Schiaparelli, are now in the Turin Museum in Italy.

Restorers also found fragments of a gold bracelet and inscription made by workers, who also left their fingerprints while painting the starry ceiling.

To protect the tomb, Mr. Corzo envisages an alternative: a virtual reality replica of it.

Americans will be the first to "virtually" visit the queen's tomb, as Disneyworld's Epcot centre in Florida has already begun installing the imaging equipment.

Turkey floods kill at least 46

ANKARA (Agencies) — Floods killed at least 46 people — mostly children in shantytowns — early on Saturday, and many others were reported missing in western Turkey in the worst rainstorm to hit the area in more than 50 years, police said.

"We have recovered 46 bodies so far," a police officer from Karsiyaka, one of the worst-hit districts of the port town of Izmir, told Reuters by telephone.

"We found the bodies of several children in fields. They were swept away from their shanty houses by the water."

At least 10 people were being treated in hospital and police were inundated with reports of more dead or missing, he said.

Most of the dead were either children or people electrocuted because of power faults, Izmir Governor Kutlu Aktas told Turkish TRT television. Others died when the minarets of two mosques in Karsiyaka district collapsed, he said.

"The most badly-affected areas are Ornekov in Cigli, where rainwater and mud flooded a hollow area full of shanty-houses, and Yamanlar in Karsiyaka, Ercan Dogu, spokesman at the Izmir governor's office said.

Some deaths resulted from electric shocks caused by cables lying in water on the streets, Mr. Simdi said. A minaret fell down on a one-storey house, killing an old woman, he said.

Heavy rain stopped later Saturday, but forecasts predicted more during the weekend.

Independent news reports put the death toll as high as 55, relying on hospital counts.

Five hours of thunder-showers early Saturday sent streams flowing over their banks, flooding homes and streets, blocking traffic and disrupting power.

"Trees have fallen down on buildings. Roofs have blown off. Electricity poles have fallen down. The sea has risen," said Talat Simdi, a spokesman for the city, which has a population of three million.

Low-income neighbourhoods with squatter housing were especially hard hit. Many shacks were completely destroyed.

The explosive, uncontrolled growth of the city without proper infrastructure was at fault for the scope of the disaster, Asaf Kocum, a professor of geography at Ege University in Izmir, told AFP.

Musaveni calls for sanctions on Sudan

CAIRO (Agencies) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni called on Saturday for severe sanctions to be imposed on Sudan, accusing Khartoum involvement in a plot to kill his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Museveni urged the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to impose the sanctions as punishment for Sudanese "involvement" in the failed attempt to assassinate Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June.

Sudan had denied any involvement in the plot.

Mr. Museveni, giving a joint press conference with Mr. Mubarak after a three-day visit to Egypt, called for African countries to cooperate to fight "terrorism", which he said threatened investment and development on the continent.

"The OAU has already decided to condemn terrorism sponsored by Sudan but I think this decision has to be followed by severe sanctions either by the OAU or the U.N. Security Council," he told reporters.

Relations between Uganda and Sudan have been severely strained for several days; Khartoum has accused Kampala of sending an army divi-

sion into southern Sudan to support Sudanese rebel forces fighting against the government.

Uganda, which cut diplomatic ties with Sudan in April accusing the government there of supporting Ugandan rebels, has denied the charge.

Mr. Museveni said one serious consequence of political violence was the damage it did to business and development.

"How will people travel if they have so much insecurity in their heads? ... This is real sabotage of freedom of travel, freedom of business and that's where our wealth will come from. But if we have this fear among people, how shall we develop? So it is a force that must be opposed by all means," he told the joint news conference with Mr. Mubarak.

Mr. Museveni said he and Mr. Mubarak had raised the possibility of holding a regional conference with Tanzania, Zaire and Uganda on promoting stability in Rwanda and Burundi.

Mr. Museveni and Mr. Mubarak earlier signed three framework agreements, on trade, investment and economic cooperation.

U.S. on advertising blitz to locate suspected CIA killer

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United States has increased to \$2 million the reward for the capture of suspected Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) killer Aimal Kanshi, officials said Saturday.

The reward, originally \$200,000, was increased almost one month ago but only recently the U.S. embassy here began an advertising blitz to publicise the richer reward, said Jack McCreary, a U.S. government spokesman.

"We're getting some response but nothing to catch him with yet," he said.

Kanshi is a suspect in the January 1993 shooting spree outside the CIA headquarters in MacLean, Virginia that left two employees dead and three seriously injured.

Kanshi reportedly fled to his home in Pakistan's tribal southwestern Baluchistan province. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents have been in Pakistan since the shooting to search for Kanshi or clues to his whereabouts, said Mr. McCreary.

The advertising blitz originally was restricted to Urdu-language newspapers, the native language in Pakistan, but on Saturday front-page advertisements began appearing in national English-language newspapers.

Kanshi's family, one of the richest in Baluchistan province, is part of the Kanshi tribe spread across parts of Baluchistan, southwestern Afghanistan and southeastern Iran.

Few people in Kanshi's hometown of Quetta, the provincial capital, are interested in helping police track down Kanshi.

Authorities believe he may have sought sanctuary from clan members, who live by a strict code that guarantees any tribal member seeking asylum unquestioned support and protection.

It would mean almost certain death to anyone who turned Kanshi in to police, they say.

As a result the U.S. government also is offering relocation to the U.S. for anyone who leads police to Kanshi.

Nearly one month ago the U.S. embassy launched a similar advertising campaign to remind people of another reward, also for \$2 million.

This reward is for information leading to the arrest of gunmen who killed two U.S. government employees and wounded a third on March 8 in the violent southern port city of Karachi.

So far no arrests have been made in that killing.

In at least one recent case the reward offer was successful.

In February a reward offer of \$2 million led to the arrest in Pakistan and quick deportation to the U.S. of Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Centre bombing in New York in 1993.

Some people believe the March shooting in Karachi may have been in retaliation for the arrest of Yousef.

In recent interviews Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan still is trying to root out militants encouraged by the U.S. and other European countries to come to Pakistan in the 1980s to fight invading Soviet soldiers in neighbouring Afghanistan.



Computer games ward off senility — neurologist

JAKARTA (AFP) — An Indonesian neurologist has said that computer games, the bane of parents worldwide, could help the elderly ward off senility, the Jakarta Post said Saturday.

"Use it or lose it," said the head of the Indonesian Centre of Brain Studies, Sidiarto Kusumoputro.

"Stimulation programmes for the elderly help to maintain the functions of the brain which are vital to survival." Speaking during discussions here on the brain and its functions organised by a local health magazine, Mr. Kusumoputro said that video games and other games usually favoured by children, could actually help provide necessary brain stimulation for the elderly. Such stimulation, he said, would allow the right and left sides of the brain to work together.

"People should design games and crossword puzzles especially for the elderly," he added.

Viewers say they see face of Jesus in NASA photo

WASHINGTON (AP) — The photograph had just disappeared from the television screen when the first of a flood of calls came in to Cable News Network.

Viewers were sure they had seen the face of Jesus in the photo taken by the Hubble space telescope. The picture of stars being born in a 6 trillion-mile-long gas cloud was released Thursday by NASA.

With the picture turned on its side, what appears to be a shadowy face can be seen in the upper portion.

Mailwoman, 86, finally throws in the sack

TRESCO, England (AP) — Eighteen years of trekking two-mile-long Tresco Island, sometimes in gale-force winds, just to get the mail through was reason enough for Irene Darling to retire Saturday.

That, and she's 86. "I have always managed the round despite some terrible blazes, even though the houses are so scattered and it is a long way round," Ms. Darling said. "I have always liked walking, and the job has kept me fit." But now she's tired — and, "now I thought it was time to give somebody else a chance."

She applied for the job when she was 68 and drawing a pension from her career in the flower industry on the island, among the Isles of Scilly, off England's southwest coast. Ms. Darling delivered the mail three days a week to Tresco's 46 households.

The route took her two-and-a-half hours, she said. The Royal Mail — who will take over the job — will take her to her oldest "postie" with champagne and a brass clock next week — is advertising for a replacement, who will be expected to work six days a week.

Godmother kills child with arsenic-laced chocolate

STUTTGART, Germany (R) — A 42-year-old woman was sentenced to life imprisonment by a German court for poisoning her seven-year-old goddaughter by lacing her chocolate sauce with arsenic. The woman had served up the lethal sauce with pistachio ice cream for the girl while babysitting for her sister-in-law, near the southern city of Ludwigsburg. The child died the next day, the court in Stuttgart heard.

Tomb of Nefertari, the beauty of beauties, opens in Egypt

LUXOR (AFP) — The tomb of Egypt's most beautiful pharaohic queen, Nefertari, opened to tourists for the first time in 90 years on Saturday under heavy precautions to protect its exquisite morals.

The tomb had been closed to the public since 1904 when Italian Egyptologist Ernesto Schiaparelli first uncovered the resting place of "the beauty of beauties," the favourite wife of the long-ruling Ramses II.

Restorers had for years battled unsuccessfully to stop salt deposits from eating away at its 3,200-year-old frescoes, which are still considered the peak of Pharaohic Egypt's tomb art with their vibrant colours and subtle details.

In 1986 the U.S.-based

Paul Getty Foundation began a \$2 million renovation programme led by Italians Paolo and Laura Moro.

Rock specialists, biologists and chemists were enlisted for the job, using electronic microscopes to analyse the threatening salt crystals, the director of the Getty Institute for Conservation, Miguel Angel Corzo, said.

They finished their work in 1992, but Egyptian authorities have since been studying how best to allow tourists into the tomb in the desert mountains of Luxor without damaging the art work.

Only 150 tourists will be allowed in the tomb per day, in groups of 10 for a 10-minute visit each, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities (SCA), Abdel

Halim Nureddin, said. Officials are also targeting foreigners with an unusually high entrance fee of \$30.

Still, authorities have not ruled out reclosing the tomb if these measures are not enough to prevent damage.

A wooden flooring has been installed to keep down the dust, and electronic equipment inside the tomb measures the humidity, carbon dioxide and temperature every five minutes.

"These systems were created by NASA for the space shuttle," Mr. Corzo said.

"Certainly the opening represents a danger. We're going to try to keep it from becoming a threat," he added.

"Any moisture has to be avoided because that acti-

vates salt deposits. We calculated that 240 visitors per day would leave the equivalent of 11 litres of water on the walls."

"The tomb was made for a queen for eternity, not for hundreds of visitors every day," he said.

"I am worried the tomb will be irreversibly destroyed," Ali Hassan, an SCA specialist, said.